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IRAN, U.S. REACH TENTATIVE PLAN TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE & START N-TALKS

Iran, US negotiators have reached an agreement to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and launch talks on Iran's nuclear programme, reports said

TRUMP YET TO SIGN OFF ON THE AGREEMENT...

The proposed deal will move forward if and when US President Donald Trump gives his final approval, Axios reported quoting two US officials and a regional source involved in the mediation efforts. Iran is yet to confirm its acceptance, the report added. The tentative agreement worked out by the two sides comes at a time the fragile ceasefire seems to be wavering

...WANTS 'COUPLE OF DAYS TO THINK ABOUT IT'

- US officials said terms of the deal have been mostly agreed to by the negotiators but both sides need approval from senior leadership
- US negotiators briefed Trump on the details of the final deal, but he did not immediately sign off saying he wants "a couple of days to think about it", Axios said. Iran's leadership is ready to sign the MoU

60 days

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF CEASEFIRE, DURING WHICH N-TALKS WILL BE HELD

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

SIDDU RESIGNS AS CM FOR DKS; TO REMAIN ACTIVE IN STATE POLITICS

Says 'No' to RS seat, national role; CLP meet, DKS' oath only after Guv accepts resignation

ASHWINI M SRIPAD & DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

ENDING six months of speculation over leadership change in Karnataka, a teary-eyed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday announced his decision to resign from the post to make way for Deputy CM DK Shivakumar to take over as new chief minister.

The announcement followed hectic parleys the party high command held with Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar in New Delhi on Tuesday, after which Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi asked Siddaramaiah to step down and offered him a Rajya Sabha seat to play a "larger role" at the national level.

After announcing his resignation, Siddaramaiah informed the media that he refused to move to the Rajya Sabha and will continue in active politics in Karnataka. Earlier, Siddaramaiah made the announcement at a breakfast meeting with his cabinet colleagues that included Shivakumar, where many ministers turned emotional.

Later at 3 pm, he went to Lok Bhavan and tendered his resignation to Special Secretary to the Governor, Prabhu Shankar, as Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot had flown to Indore on Wednesday night following a medical emergency involving a family member. The Governor returned to Bengaluru late Thursday evening, but after Siddaramaiah left for New Delhi to meet the party high command. He is expected to return on Friday. The resignation would be accepted only when Siddaramaiah presents himself before the Governor.

Shivakumar will take oath at a time and date to be decided only after the Governor accepts Siddaramaiah's resignation.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar greets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah before a breakfast meeting at the CM's residence in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

CM'S FLIGHT LANDS IN JAIPUR, TAKES OFF LATE AT NIGHT

NEW DELHI: Outgoing CM Siddaramaiah's flight from Bengaluru was diverted to Jaipur due to heavy rain at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Thursday evening. An airport source said the non-scheduled flight landed at the airport in Jaipur at 7.55 pm, and the flight finally took off at 11.30 pm. Siddaramaiah was on board a chartered Embraer plane along with Ministers KJ George, Byrathi Suresh, legal advisor Ponnana, MLC and Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra, AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala and AICC Secretary Abhishek Dutt.

"The resignation has been submitted. But it has to be presented in person to the Governor. Only after the Governor accepts it, will the resignation become official. Until then, Siddaramaiah will continue as chief minister," official Lok Bhavan sources told *The New Indian Express*.

If the resignation is accepted on Friday, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) is likely to be convened on Saturday or Sunday, followed by Shivakumar's oath-taking. The swearing-in ceremony could also take place on Monday, depending on Shivakumar finding an auspicious time in consultation with his astrologer, sources said.

If the Congress high command approves a full-fledged cabinet, the swearing-in is likely to be held on the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha – a legacy associated with former chief ministers Ramakrishna Hegde and SM Krishna, which Shivakumar is keen to continue.

However, with the Rajya Sabha polls on June 18, the high command is also considering a partial cabinet expansion, keeping some berths vacant. Political analysts say a full cabinet formation could trigger dissidence among disappointed aspirants, giving the opposition an opportunity to woo disgruntled MLAs ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls.

If only a partial cabinet is sworn in, the ceremony is likely to be held at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan. P4,5

DKS wants Siddu's son to be DCM as 'insurance'?

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AS outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah left for Delhi on Thursday evening to express gratitude to the Congress high command, including Leader of Opposition Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the CM-in-waiting DK Shivakumar too followed him, sparking speculation. Sources said Shivakumar is planning to convince both Siddaramaiah and the party high command to induct the latter's MLC son Dr Yathindra as deputy chief minister into his new cabinet to ensure stability to the new government, more like an "insurance" against those angered by Siddaramaiah's resignation as CM.

Siddaramaiah, who rejected the party high command's offer for him to move to Rajya Sabha, had his own reservations when Rahul offered the DCM post to his son. But now, he may accept the deal, which could placate his supporters – especially the Kuruba community – who could not digest their leader handing over power, sources said.

Before the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are likely to complete the cabinet formation plans with the approval of the party high command. P5

After NEET leak, IAF option on table to airlift retest questions

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THE Centre is assessing to draft in the military, with the Indian Air Force set to transport question papers for the upcoming NEET-UG re-examination after the paper leak controversy forced the cancellation of the May 3 test, sources in the defence establishment said following a high-level meeting on Thursday.

The nearly 40-minute meeting was held at Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's residence and attended by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, NTA Director General Pradeep Singh Kharola and senior representatives from the education ministry and the Prime Minister's Office, sources told this daily.

They added that the discussions focused on strengthening security protocols across the entire exam cycle, including paper setting, printing, storage, transport and coordination at centres across India.

"The Air Force is expected to assist in the secure and time-bound movement of question papers to minimise risks during transit, which investigators believe was a major vulnerability in the earlier process," a source said, adding that contingency plans and inter-agency coordination mechanisms were also reviewed as part of a "multi-layered security architecture" being put in place for the examination.

The move is part of a wider framework being built around the June 21 re-test, which will be conducted for more than 22 lakh aspirants. Investigations into the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak continue across Rajasthan and Maharashtra, with the CBI probing allegations that portions of the question paper circulated before the exam through guess papers and encrypted messaging platforms.

Queries sent to the defence ministry on the meet did not elicit a formal response till the filing of this report.

PMO oversees prep

Sources said the PMO is closely overseeing preparations, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi being regularly briefed on developments related to the examination and the security arrangements being put in place

Rajnath Singh | Dharmendra Pradhan | Jyotiraditya Scindia

WFI MOVES SC AGAINST HC's PHOGAT FIAT

The Wrestling Federation of India has challenging in the SC the Delhi HC's order that allowed Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games, scheduled for Saturday | P7

India among over 30 nations working to build non-China supply chain

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA, along with more than 30 countries, is working to build an alternative supply chain for critical minerals used in electric vehicles, smartphones and defence equipment, as governments seek to reduce heavy dependence on China after Beijing tightened exports of key minerals, sources said.

"India, along with 30-40 other countries, is trying to create an alternative market and supply chain for critical minerals to reduce import dependence on China," an official aware of the matter said.

India is in talks with Chile, Canada, Japan, Australia and others to bring them on board for creating a resilient critical minerals supply chain.

Recently, India, Australia, Japan and the US—the Quad partners—set an ambitious target of mobilising up to $20 billion in government and private-sector support to build secure critical minerals supply chains, reduce dependence on dominant suppliers and strengthen regional industry.

"India does have reserves, but these are mostly used for very specific projects, such as those in ISRO. For mass-market needs like smartphones and vehicles, the industry is still importing from China," another official said. The biggest challenge lies in convincing Indian industry to source from alternative markets, as China continues to enjoy a strong competitive edge in critical mineral exports, sources said adding that pricing is a big concern.

"The challenge lies in matching prices and convincing industry to buy from India and partner countries that are working together," the official said. India is seeking to position itself as a trusted partner in emerging mineral alliances. "Countries need confidence in our systems before they open up sensitive technologies," the official said.

Indian agencies are also exploring partnerships with research institutions in Australia to gain expertise in mineral extraction and processing.

What are critical minerals?

Critical minerals include copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite, aluminium, manganese, silicon, and silver, rare earth elements, among others. These are essential for national security as they are vital for defence, aerospace, nuclear, and space applications

In-law in CBI custody in Twisha death case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested retired judge **Giribala Singh** in connection with the alleged dowry death of her daughter-in-law Twisha Sharma. CBI sleuths took her into custody from her Bhopal residence after 5 hours of questioning in the high-profile case.

Sources said the CBI has informed the Bhopal District and Sessions Judge Manoj Srivastava about the arrest. The ex-judge will be produced before the court on Friday.

The arrest of the 63-year-old former judge came a day after the Madhya Pradesh High Court quashed the anticipatory bail granted to her by a sessions court.

Giribala's son and Twisha's husband Samarth Singh is already in CBI custody. Officials said the CBI will interrogate the mother-son duo together.

Two CBI teams were at Giribala's house on Thursday. While the first team, comprising technical and forensic experts arrived for crime scene mapping and forensic analysis at around 10.30 am, the second team comprising women sleuths arrived at around 12.30 pm.

The 33-year-old model-actor Twisha Sharma was allegedly found hanging on May 12, six months after her marriage with Bhopal-based advocate Samarth.

The local police lodged a case of dowry death, harassment and cruelty against Samarth and Giribala on May 15. An SIT was subsequently formed by Bhopal police commissioner Sanjay Kumar to probe the high-profile case.

On May 23, the state government recommended a CBI probe, based on the demand by Twisha's parents. The CBI took over the probe on May 25.

Exceptional heat in next 5 yrs: UN body

- Global average temperatures likely to continue at or near record levels in the next five years, says new report from the World Meteorological Organization

1.3°C-1.9°C Annual global mean near-surface temperatures during 2026–2030 predicted to be 1.3°C-1.9°C above the 1850-1900 average

91% chance of global mean near-surface temperature exceeding 1.5°C above the 1850-1900 average for at least a year between 2026 and 2030

- Global temperature crossed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for the first time in 2024
- Arctic temperatures over the next five extended northern hemisphere winters (November-March) predicted to be 2.8°C above normal

"El Niño predicted for the end of 2026, which increases the chances of the following year, 2027, being the next record-breaking year

— Dr Leon Hermanson, lead author of the report

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Monsoon delayed, may not arrive even on June 1

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE arrival of the most-awaited South West Monsoon has been delayed. Reason: The parameters that decide the onset have not met the required criteria.

Officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the wind pattern is not satisfactory and so is the outgoing long-wave radiation. The prolonged hot and dry spells and the break in pre-monsoon rain pattern have also affected the arrival of monsoon.

IMD-Bengaluru Director-in-charge, N Puviarasan said the westerly winds need to reach a height of 4 km, but at present, they are around 1.5 km. It is raining in Kerala, but it is the pre-monsoon showers, he added.

"Based on the long period average assessment, the ideal date of onset of monsoon is June 1. But this year, it was forecast that the monsoon would arrive on May 26-27. But it has been delayed now. In the wake of the present scenario, the conditions are not favourable for the onset of monsoon even on June 1," he said.

Weathermen said as this is the El Nino year, the monsoon will be weak. The cross-equatorial winds are also not very strong for the monsoon to set in. Had the winds been strong, by this time the entire equatorial region and southern west coast would be experiencing rain. But the winds are weak now, they added.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the south-west monsoon has covered Andaman Nicobar Islands, Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and surrounding areas. It is yet to hit the mainland. The forecast is that it will advance in the next two days. Its arrival on the mainland cannot be said at the moment.

However, pre-monsoon showers are gradually expanding over the entire country. A dip in maximum temperatures and rain over most parts of the country has been forecast from May 28-31 as part of the pre-monsoon showers.

WB man beaten, stripped in B'luru

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 10-member gang assaulted a 25-year-old man from Darjeeling after stripping him and tying his hands and legs at a men's paying guest (PG) facility in Indiranagar on Tuesday around 1.30 am. The gang assaulted him with cables and leather belts, suspecting him of stealing two mobile phones, according to police sources.

The victim is S Suraj Rai of Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Luxury Gents Paying Guest facility near Dharmaraya Temple in Mottappanapalya. P3

EXPRESS READ

5 killed as car rams parked truck

CHITRADURGA: Five people died on the spot when their car rammed into a truck parked on the roadside near a dhaba at Tumkurlahalli Gate on Srirangapatna National Highway 150A in Chitradurga district on Thursday night. Police said the car, which was heading to Ballari, suffered a tyre burst. The victims are Rudresh, Raghavendra, Soma, Mallikarjun and Pramod.

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE

INDULGE

36 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

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ALMANAC TODAY

• **Friday:** 29.05.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Grishma • **Masa:** Adhika Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Thrayodasi 9.11 am
• **Nakshatra:** Swathi 10.28 am • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
• **Gulikakala**: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • **Yamaganda:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 22°C | MAX 33°C

FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Overcast

Sunrise 05.52 am
Sunset 06.41 pm
Moonrise 05.07 pm
Moonset 04.02 am

HANGING CABLES TURN B'LURU ROADS INTO 'DEATH TRAPS'

GAYATHRI M KURUP
@Bengaluru

THE recent death of a 30-year-old commuter after his motorcycle got entangled in a dangling roadside cable near the Vidhana Soudha has once again brought to attention Bengaluru's growing civic safety crisis. Citizens, activists and urban experts have warned that loose overhead wires, dilapidated infrastructure and poor coordination among agencies are turning parts of the city into "death traps".

Besides hanging cables, damaged manholes, pothole-filled roads and poor street lighting also continue to pose serious risks to pedestrians and two-wheeler riders across Bengaluru despite repeated complaints to the authorities, the activists said. "It's a death trap everywhere," said Prakash Nedungadi, the treasurer of Aam Aadmi Party in Karnataka. "We have overhead wires above us and potholes below us. Whether they are riders or pedestrians, people are constantly at risk."

Nedungadi said citizens frequently report loose wires, damaged pavements and broken manholes, but corrective action often remains temporary. He called for regular safety audits across wards, identification of hazard zones and quicker response mechanisms to remove dangerous infrastructure. "Walk around for one kilometre in any street and you will see wires hanging everywhere," he said.

Civil activist Vinay Srinivas said the issue reflects deeper governance failures within Bengaluru's urban administration. "The cables are symptomatic of the mess that Bengaluru's urban governance is in," he said, adding, "There are multiple agencies involved, but there are very few people to take responsibility."

According to Srinivas, poor coordination between civic bodies, utility agencies and private operators has made corrective measures difficult. He added that inquiry reports following accidents are rarely made public and stressed the need for both citizen-led and government-led safety audits.

Civic activist Vinod Kartavya alleged that poor coordination among agencies such as GBA, BWSSB, BESCOM and telecom operators has allowed unregulated cabling to spread across several localities.

Kartavya pointed to localities such as Cubbonpet, Cottonpet, Sultanpet and Avenue Road, where numerous overhead cables can be seen dangling over the streets. "You cannot even see the sky, that many cables are there," he said, adding that unused cables are often left hanging after connections are discontinued. He urged the authorities concerned to implement underground cabling systems across the city, citing TenderSURE and Smart City roads as successful examples.

Vijayakumar Haridas, Chief Engineer of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, said the issue would be inspected and the hanging cables in the area would be cleared within two days. He said underground cable ducts already exist on several roads developed under TenderSURE and Smart City projects, and operators should use those facilities instead of overhead cables.

Activists and experts say the accident near Vidhana Soudha should serve as a wake-up call for authorities to prioritise civic safety and accountability before more lives are lost to preventable urban hazards.

BSCC working on seven-point action plan for civic budget

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU South City Corporation (BSCC) on Thursday organised a workshop for the engineers and officials of the corporation on the implementation of the budget and to prepare the action plan for the current year, which includes the elimination of garbage spots, maintaining safe roads, pedestrian paths and a few other similar issues.

For the current financial year's Action Plan, a seven-point agenda was formulated with regard to pedestrian paths and elimination of garbage blackspots, safe roads and junctions, public spaces and greening, resilience at the local level, mitigating climate change and water scarcity; protection of underprivileged sections and community participation.

The workshop also focused on ensuring that available funds are utilised effectively by incorporating public input as part of the ground-level implementation.

Addressing the gathering, BSCC Commissioner KN Ramesh said, "The time has come for our engineers and officials to think differently. Without wasting available resources, expenditures must be aligned with public priorities to achieve 'low investment, high impact'."

Ramesh highlighted that their main objective must be to resolve public grievances quickly and actively engage citizens in the services of the corporation.

Arun Pai from Walkaluru, Srinivas Alavilli from the World Resources Institute (WRI) India and Dr Shanti Tummula from the HSR Layout Citizen Forum, along with several prominent civil society organisations and experts, participated in the workshop and provided technical guidance on how to utilise the budget allocation properly.

JOY OF TOGETHERNESS

A man along with his children takes part in Eid prayers at Chamarajpet Idgah Grounds in Bengaluru on Thursday | KEVIN NASHON

Keep areas clean, BNCC chief tells civic officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU North City Corporation Commissioner (BNCC) Pommala Sunil Kumar on Thursday inspected Pulikeshinagar and Sarvagnanagar divisions and directed civic officials to continue cleanliness, debris clearance and city beautification efforts.

In Pulikeshinagar, Kumar visited several areas, including Netaji Road, and instructed the officials to clear construction debris dumped near the railway track at the earliest. He told them to maintain cleanliness and ensure that residents faced no inconvenience due to waste accumulation. In view of Bakrid, he inspected the meat stalls in the locality. Meat vendors were instructed to strictly adhere to hygiene and sanitation norms.

City will pay price for 30-yr garbage deal: Ashwath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP leader CN Ashwath Narayan has strongly criticised the state government for its reported Rs 39,437 crore solid waste management contract for Bengaluru, alleging lack of transparency and financial prudence in awarding the project to a single vendor for 30 years. He said Bengalureans would ultimately bear the burden of the deal and, and it could make citizens pay more than four times the present cost by 2056.

In a statement, Narayan said the Congress-led government approved the contract with a built-in 5% annual escalation clause, which he alleged would increase costs by more than four times by 2056. He accused the government of "locking" Bengaluru residents into a long-term financial burden for garbage collection services.

The former deputy chief minister alleged that the state finance department had raised objections to the proposal and suggested capping the annual escalation at 2.5%, reducing the contract period to 10 years and avoiding a monopoly by a single company.

However, he claimed the government ignored these recommendations and rushed the proposal through as an additional agenda item.

Narayan also alleged that three earlier tender rounds had failed and the current proposal was cleared before ministers had adequate time to scrutinise the file. "When a government ignores its own experts, skips its own committee and approves a sum bigger than many state budgets in a few minutes, that is not governance," he said.

He also alleged that Bengaluru deserved greater scrutiny, competition and transparency in the tendering process, instead of what he termed "secrecy and a single-vendor arrangement."

Truckers demand toll waiver, tax relief to mitigate fuel price hike impact

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE South India Motor Transporters Association (SIMTA), representing truckers, transporters and passenger vehicle operators across south India, has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide immediate financial relief to the road transport sector in view of the sharp increase in diesel prices and worsening business conditions.

In the letter to Modi, the SIMTA said the transport industry was facing a severe financial crisis due to rising operational costs, declining freight earnings, excess vehicle availability and weak market demand. The association stated that diesel prices have increased by nearly Rs 7.5 per litre in the past 10 days alone, adding further pressure on transport operators already struggling with low freight rates.

The SIMTA said around 40–45% of commercial vehicles across the country are currently lying idle because of insufficient freight demand and imbalance between vehicle capacity and transportation needs. The association also cited the ongoing West Asia crisis and fuel supply uncertainties as factors affecting transport operations nationwide.

According to the association, nearly 60–65% of transport operation expenses are linked directly to diesel costs, while another 18–20% is spent on toll charges and statutory compliances. However, transporters are unable to pass on the increased fuel burden to customers owing to intense competition and weak freight markets.

The association, which represents transport bodies from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Puducherry, sought relief measures, such as waiver of toll charges and penalties for six months, exemption from National Permit fees, reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) by state governments, waiver of motor vehicle taxes and introduction of financial assistance packages for transport operators.

The SIMTA also demanded that petroleum products be brought under the GST regime to ensure uniform fuel pricing and reduce taxation. The association warned that continued financial stress could affect supply chains and the livelihoods of lakhs of families dependent on the transport sector.

EXPRESS READ

Agri, vet practical exams delay CET 2026 results, to be declared only after June 1

BENGALURU: Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) executive director Prasanna BS announced on Thursday that the date of release for the much-awaited results of Common Entrance Test (CET) 2026 has been postponed, and it will now be released after June 1. "The Agriculture and Veterinary Practical Exam will be conducted at the Hiriyur Centre on June 1, and only after that will the CET results be announced. This decision has been made because the University of Agricultural Sciences has rescheduled the practical exam for candidates at the Hiriyur Centre (sic)," stated Prasanna. A total of 24,250 candidates had applied for the practical exam. "Until the results are announced, candidates/parents should try to prepare for the counselling process. They can also obtain information about registering options. If possible, they can participate in the CET seat allotment mock rounds organised by KEA in government engineering/medical colleges until May 30," Prasanna added. **ENS**

BBP newborn otter to be named after veterinarian Sameeksha Reddy

BENGALURU: Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Thursday announced that a newborn female otter at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) will be named after the late veterinarian Dr Sameeksha Reddy. Dr Reddy lost her life while treating a female hippopotamus at Shivamogga Zoo in March 2026. Khandre also directed the zoo administration to closely monitor the health of animals, particularly young ones. He said that if female cheetahs are born to the newly introduced cheetah families at the park, they too will be named after Dr Reddy. **ENS**

Bengaluru-Bhubaneswar flight diverted to Lucknow due to bad weather

BENGALURU: An Akasa Air flight operating from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) to Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on May 27 had to be diverted to Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow. Rumours spread that the diversion was due to a shortage of fuel onboard, but the airline spokesperson confirmed that it was only due to the adverse weather in Bhubaneswar. "The pilot followed all established operational and safety protocols in line with standard procedures. The flight subsequently departed from Lucknow and landed safely in Bhubaneswar at 12:02 am on Thursday (May 28)," he said. **ENS**

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

29th May : Social Stirrings of the Scorpio Moon
On a Scorpio moon in the early degrees of Gemini season, a lucky lunar trine to Jupiter in the sign of the home lends a feeling of emotional abundance, where even the hidden rooms of the heart feel furnished and welcoming. So who would you like to invite over for a visit? This is the time of year to take a chance and mix in some fresh faces.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Fortune favors following obscure interests. There's a subreddit for everything. Today brings a stronger flavor, as though your dial skips the mild settings. You'll love something or strongly oppose it, immerse yourself in it or ignore it.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
The fun part of dancing, conversing, playing ball and so many other things we do in life together is the slightly unpredictable nature of the volley. Today it's less about the skill and grace involved and more about reciprocity.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Champions develop guts, grit and gumption long before they rise to the top of the league or win anything of note. Whether you're at the starting line or in the weedy middle of the task, you come to it with the mindset of a champion.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Responsibilities can feel heavier than lead. Putting it all on paper will help you organize your work and chunk the list into jobs that feel manageable. What's organized on paper will also organize in your mind and perspective.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
No one is happy all the time. Without the contrast of unhappy moments in the past, you wouldn't be able to capture some of the subtle shades of happiness that visit you today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Improving yourself will improve a relationship. Making yourself better makes the world better. Control what you can. It usually includes your own attitudes and efforts. You'll have more influence than you might imagine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You already do a physical check before you leave a place. Add one more item to your "keys, phone, wallet" ritual, and that item is: mindset. The attitude you bring will influence how your experience in the world unfolds and what comes out of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
If you're dealt a good hand, you can play it on its own merits. But winning hands are relatively rare. It's more common to strategize your way into a better position, lean on instinct about the other players or bluff.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Whether it's more comfortable to give or receive, it will be essential to do both. The balance and health of the relationship depends on it. Bonus points for letting others know what you need and how they can contribute.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
It is possible to approach the familiar with fresh eyes, but it's much harder to do than simply going somewhere you've never been before. Adventuring is the fastest way to revitalizing your energy, and a new one is just waiting for you to claim it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You care to find out what people want. Then you remember it so when you come across something that could help, you connect them to it. This is attentiveness plus follow-through that they experience as pure magic.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Children don't often get to choose their environment or schedule. Adults, in theory, have more say. Whatever feels off, you don't have to stick with it by default. There's room to adjust. Look for the levers you control and start there.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

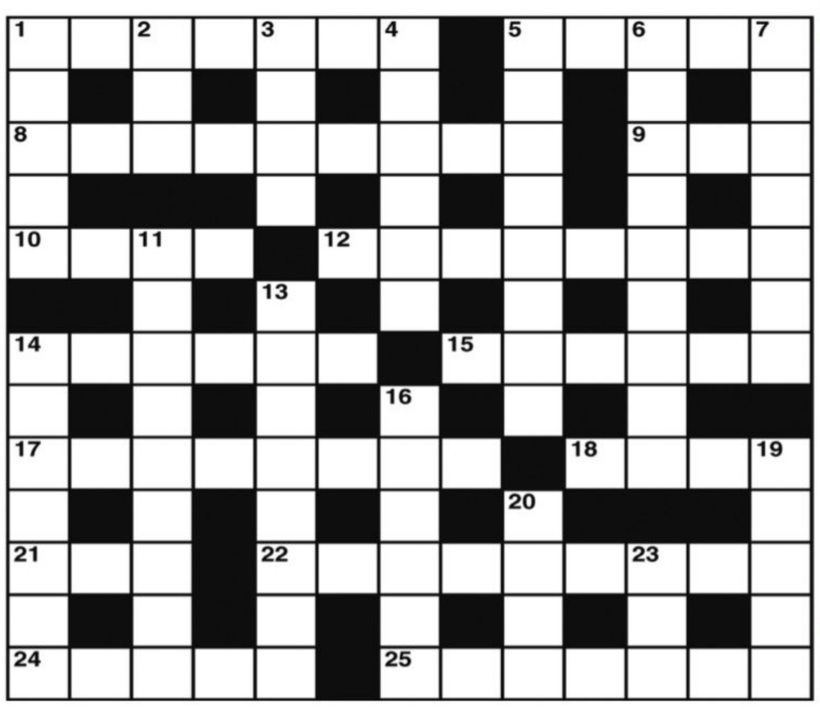
	9			3	2	1		
		4	5				8	
3			4	8	7			
8	7		1		3		6	4
			9		6			
6	1		8		4		7	2
			2	1	8			6
	3				9	2		
		2	3	6			1	

9	4	8	5	7	2	6	3	1
5	3	1	4	6	8	9	2	7
7	6	2	9	3	1	8	5	4
2	7	4	6	8	9	5	1	3
6	5	3	7	1	4	2	8	9
1	8	9	2	5	3	4	7	6
8	1	5	3	9	6	7	4	2
4	9	7	1	2	5	3	6	8
3	2	6	8	4	7	1	9	5

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Left office and went to bed (7)
5 Small part of a stone carving (5)
8 Is it suitable for eating only in the daytime? (5,4)
9 Send a morse message or intercept one (3)
10 Novice reporter goes to a Caribbean island (4)
12 Doctors should be seen in dry spells (8)
14 An unparticular person (6)
15 The story of Achilles' heel? (6)
17 Changes locks (8)
18 Employed to collect various dues (4)
21 Mother comes back in a frenzy (3)
22 Lay preacher? (9)
24 Use a divine gift to find water (5)
25 Ponders devious answer (7)

DOWN

1 Scoundrel I catch concealing a souvenir (5)
2 It may show the name of the game (3)
3 Rising star? You must be joking! (4)
4 Gloomy doctor having a bad year (6)
5 Getting cool and rude treatment, blushed (8)
6 So good nobody will play you? (9)
7 Disapproved of what a model did after work (7)
11 Does it have a view on where to swim? (3,6)
13 In turn I've become idle (8)
14 Put on Medusa's form (7)
16 One who foils trespassers? (6)
19 Went out with boys in old hat (5)
20 A doctor's name (4)
23 The Roman I found among the Goths (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Manifest, 5 Mugs, 9 Revue, 10 Asunder, 11 Flock of sheep, 13 Tramps, 14 Single, 17 Restlessness, 20 Counsel, 21 Alien, 22 Star, 23 Trekkers.

Down: 1 Mere, 2 Novella, 3 French polish, 4 Shadow, 6 Undue, 7 Scrapped, 8 Question mark, 12 Attracts, 15 Gas fire, 16 Ostler, 18 Sousa, 19 Ones.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

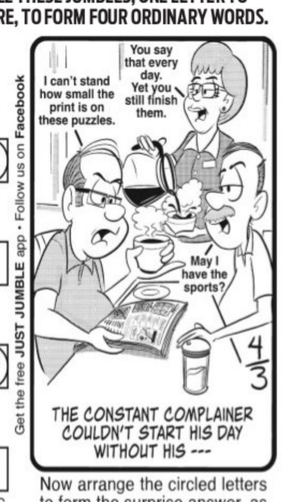
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

UOYGN

FWRAE

ODMIPU

FNCIET


I can't stand how small the print is on these puzzles.
You say that every day. Yet you still finish them.
May I have the sports?
4/3
THE CONSTANT COMPLAINER COULDN'T START HIS DAY WITHOUT HIS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGAIN WIDTH UNDONE CHANCE
Answer: When arm wrestling, strength and determination — GO HAND IN HAND

Between 6 pm and 6.30 pm on May 24, the Bengaluru Central Prison officials conducted a surprise inspection and recovered a mobile phone. In another incident, Krishnappa, a convict, was found hiding bidis in his slippers. A case was registered under the Karnataka Prisons Act and other relevant sections of the BNS

Munirathna discharged in atrocity case

MLA had been booked under SC/ST Act for abusing his aide taking his caste in 2024

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a setback to the Special Investigation Team (SIT), the Special Court for the trial of criminal cases against sitting and former MPs and MLAs discharged RR Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna from the case of atrocity.

Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat passed the order on May 21 allowing the application filed by Munirathna aka Munirathna Naidu, seeking discharge from the case registered by the Vyalikaval police under Sections 3(1)(r),(s) of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Sections 153A(1)(a)(b), 504 and 506 of IPC, on the complaint filed by Velu Naykar for allegedly abusing him, using his caste.

The case was entrusted to the SIT within the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) by the state government. The court noted that the materials produced in the final report are insufficient to frame charges against Munirathna, and accordingly, he is discharged for the offences punishable under the SC/ST (PoA) Act and the IPC.

The court said that the alleged incident had taken place on May 18, 2024, at the residence of accused Munirathna, where he had convened a meeting of the contractors pertaining to his constituency. It is contended that at that point of time he had summoned Cheluvaraju, a garbage contractor, to his office room in his house and had hurled abuses touching upon the caste of Velu Naykar, which was recorded in the Apple watch. On September 13, 2024, the said issue was brought to the notice of the complainant Velu Naykar, who was a close aide of Munirathna, and accordingly he had lodged the complaint.

To attract the rigors of the provisions invoked against Munirathna under the SC/ST Act, it is required that the abuses are required to be hurled with an intention to humiliate a member belonging to a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe in a public place within public view. However, in the instant case, the prosecution has failed to indicate the materials to frame charges wherein the allegations were hurled in a public place, and the alleged abuses hurled would attract the rigors of the provisions even in the absence of the complaint, said the court while giving reasons for discharging.

GREAT FALL

A fallen tree blocks Sri Vasavi Temple Road in VV Puram in Bengaluru after heavy rain on Thursday evening. No casualty or damage to property was reported in the incident | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

58 rowdy-sheeters externed from city in four months

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

TO curb criminal activities across the city, the Bengaluru City Police have externed 58 rowdy-sheeters from the city in the last four months of this year. The Goonda Act has been invoked against one rowdy-sheeter, while proposals against three others are pending.

The police told TNIE that the Organised Crime Wing (OCW) of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), which has intensified its crackdown on criminal activities in the city, prepared a list of notorious rowdy-sheeters who were repeatedly involved in criminal activities and posed a threat to law and order. The OCW recommended the externment of 58 rowdy-sheeters, including 28 from the East division, 10 from the West division, six from the North division, five from the North-East division, four from the South-East division, three from the North-West division, and one each from the South-West division and Electronic City division, the officer said.

The list was sent to the respective Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) of different divisions for necessary action.

The officer said the DCPs have issued orders to extern the rowdy-sheeters, barring them from entering the city for one year. The rowdies have been externed to different districts, including Kolar, KGF, Ballari, Mysuru and others. If they violate the order and enter the city, they will be arrested again and externed, the officer said.

Another senior officer said the police have also initiated action under the Goonda Act against five rowdies who were allegedly involved in continuous criminal activities and disturbing public peace in the city. Currently, Mahalakshmi Layout rowdy sheeter Vinay Kumar has been arrested and sent to jail. Proposals to invoke the Goonda Act against Jamsheed, Palani alias Kerchief, and Satish are under the scrutiny of the Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime).

Man tortured on suspicion of stealing mobile phones

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RAI came to Bengaluru four years ago and worked as a waiter at a popular brewery and resto bar on 100-Foot Road in Indiranagar. He quit his job two months ago and took the paying guest accommodation 10 days ago. The accused also live in the same PG and work in a bar and restaurant in Indiranagar.

Mobile phones of two of the accused identified as Chan Ko and Bishal Suresh were stolen from the PG. Suspecting Rai of stealing them, they reportedly tortured him along with others.

"After stripping Rai, the accused assaulted him in his room on the 5th floor of the PG facility. They later tied his hands and legs and threatened to kill him if he did not return their mobile phones. Though Rai pleaded that he did not steal their phones, they assaulted him with cables and leather belts. They also tried to strangle him with a cable. After the accused went to their rooms, Rai, who suffered bleeding injuries, informed his relatives. With the help of his friend in the PG, he got admitted in a nearby hospital. Paras, Bhuvan, Santu, Rana and Madhav are the other accused. Some of them have been arrested," said a police officer.

The police recorded Rai's statement in the hospital. A case of attempt to murder under Section 109 of BNS has been registered against the accused.

They tied his hands and legs and threatened to kill him. Though he pleaded that he did not steal their phones, they assaulted him with cables and leather belts. – Police officer

EXPRESS READ

2 held for armed robbery, 5 other cases cracked

BENGALURU: The Puttenahalli police arrested two men for allegedly threatening to hack a laborer with a machete and robbing him off Rs 5,000 in Nrupathunga Nagar. Probe revealed that Syed Dorad (26) and Syed Aktal (28) were also involved in cases registered at the Puttenahalli, Madiwala, Kumaraswamy Layout, and Jayanagar police limits. With this arrest, the police have now solved five two-wheeler theft cases and recovered eight stolen gas cylinders from the accused. ENS

'Horse for Sale' board at Darshan's farm

B K LAKSHMIKANTHA @Mysuru

KANNADA actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is reportedly selling his horses housed at Vinish Darshan Marwari Stud Farm, located on the Mysuru-T Narasipura Road. A large board announcing 'Horse for Sale' was placed in front of the property.

Darshan, who is currently lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in connection with the 2024 Renukaswamy murder case, was known to frequently visit his sprawling farmhouse, 'Thoogudeepa Farm', at Old Kempaiahana Hundi near T Narasipura to unwind after hectic film shoots.

A 'Horse for Sale' board outside Vinish Darshan Marwari Stud Farm on the Mysuru-T Narasipura Road | EXPRESS

Darshan owns over 20 racehorses, along with two dozen cows, Hallikar bulls, sheep, goats, emus, pedigree dogs, ducks, donkeys, and several other animals, all kept in separate enclosures on the farm. "The horses at the farm are imported breeds worth several lakhs of rupees," a source said. Dr Ramachandra, former veterinarian at Thoogudeepa Farm, told TNIE that the racehorses at the property are extremely valuable. "However, I have no idea why Darshan has decided to sell them," he added.

Pvt transport bodies flag driver exploitation by aggregator firms

BENGALURU: The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations has urged the Karnataka government to regulate goods transport aggregator platforms, alleging driver exploitation, unsafe operational practices and inadequate regulatory oversight. A memorandum was submitted to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy accusing that several aggregator companies operating in the state were functioning without adequate regulation under the Karnataka On-demand Transportation Technology Aggregators Rules, 2016. They said, the drivers are being forced to meet unrealistic delivery timelines, lack of transparency in fare calculations, and arbitrary deductions from drivers' earnings. Drivers are also asked to transport goods without proper invoices, e-way bills or consignee details, exposing them to legal and safety risks. ENS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase below schedule property from Sri. Gangahanumaiah S/o Late Hanumaiah which is his self acquired property by way of Sale Deed No. DSP-1-05676/2007-08. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE : If anybody is having any rights, claims, issues, proceedings lean, objections over the below schedule property to contact within 7 days along with documents. If no communication is received within time, it would be deemed that the schedule property is a free hold one. My client would further go ahead with sale deed transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Land property in Sy.No. 11/9 of Siddanahosahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring 00-04 Guntas out of 00-08 guntas and bounded on:- East by: Road, West by: Gangappa's Land, North by: Gramathana Property, South by: Remaining portion of same Sy.No. belongs to Narayanappa measuring 00-04 guntas.

Sd/- **B.I. Krishnamurthy,** Advocate
No. 214, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore - 560 002. Mob. : 98457 50308

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJAWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN NO. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: https://ujvnl.uk.gov.in/

RO No. 449 **Corrigendum No.- 13 (Time Extension)** Dated : 27/05/2026

e-Tender Notice

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of e-Tender No. 01/DGM(E&M D-I)/UJVNL/2025-26 invited by Office of the Dy. General Manager, E&M Design-I, UJVN Ltd., Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) are hereby extended as follows:

Last date for submission of bids on website : 04.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.

Last date for submission of Original documents (Hard Copies) : 08.06.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.

Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid on Portal : 09.06.2026 from 11:00 Hrs.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".

Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-I)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

MUMBAI PORT AUTHORITY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Mumbai Port Authority invites online **Tender No. E-25/2026: e-Tender-cum-e-Auction for purchase, demolition of dilapidated Residential Buildings under the Jurisdiction of GWND. The Due Date of the tender is 09.06.2026.** Details of the tender are available on MbPA's website: http//www.mumbaiport.gov.in and http//www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Chief Engineer
Mumbai Port Authority

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_CLAT/CR-02/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities For the **academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities, in order to provide CLAT coaching and other training programs.** Interested & eligible bidders/Institutes can apply through e-Procurement Portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	29.05.2026
2.	Tender Amount:	Rs. 600.00 Lakhs.
3.	EMD Amount:	Rs.9,00,000/-
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	04.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	16.06.2026 by 5:30 p.m.
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	18.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	25.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	080-22535902 080-22535912.

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities https://dom.karnataka.gov.in and e-Procurement website at: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/879/MAA/2026-27

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/05/2023-24)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

31 under construction flats on BBMP Municipal No: 41/3, Old No: 41, (PID No:94-43-41/3), New ward no 30 formed out of survey No: 93/3 and 94/2, totally measuring 22798 Sq.ft situated at Nagawara Main Road, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/PVNw22hEM7Z19oev8 Latitude and Longitude: 13°01'06.7"N 77°37'09.9"E

For more details regarding Minimum bid Price, EMD and other details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://sploca.org/)

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
10th June 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	16th June 2026, 11:00am to 05:00pm	18th June 2026 Before 5pm	22nd June 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174

Date: 27.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/853/Zen/2026-27

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+91 99955 59004 (WhatsApp Only)
psuresh@newindianexpress.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is here by informed to the general public that my client **Sri.Manish Kumar Das,** S/o.Sri.Prafulla Kumar Das, is the absolute owner and in possession of schedule property mentioned hereunder, However, my client has lost the original sale deed document, vide document No.BMH-1-00962/2015-16, Book-I, CD No.BMHD706, Dated:14.05.2015, in the office of the sub registrar, Bhommanahalli, Bangalore which were pertains to schedule property.

Therefore, the general public are hereby informed that if any one possess of the aforesaid document and claiming right, title and interest in respect of the property mentioned in the schedule herein below, will amount to fraud, mis-representation and illegal. If any person wants to file objection with regard to above, they may do so within 7 days from the date of the publication to the address given below.

If no objections are received within the said period, it will be treated that there are no claims against the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable Property Bearing Site No.1660/A, Situated at HSR Layout, Sector-7, Presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Measuring East to West 18.29 mtrs and North to South 12.19 mtrs, in all measuring 222.95 Sq.mtr, and bounded on the East by : Site No.1669/A, West by : 40 Feet Road, North by : Site No.1659/A, South by : Site No.1661/A.

A.M.Gajendra, Advocate,
No.2, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Srinivasanagar, Kathriguppe Main Road, Bangalore-560085.
Ph. No.-9845562465
Bangalore Dated: 28.05.2026

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE
Established by Govt. of Karnataka
(A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
Recognised Under Societies Registration Act, Reg. No. 132/85-86
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bengaluru-560029.
email: ihealthchild@yahoo.in, Website: www.igich.org

IFT No: DME/Tender/2025-26/se0532 Date:27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR - Re TENDERS
(Through GOK e-portal platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Tenders are invited through e-portal platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by the Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru - 560029 from eligible tenderers for the following procurement Mentioned hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Items	Unit	EMD in Rupees	Tender Processing charges
1.	Digitalization of Medical Records.	As per e-portal	Rs.50000.00	As per e-portal

The tender documents will be available online for download from 27.05.2026 to 29.06.2026 at 4:00 pm. Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 29.06.2026 at 4:00 pm in the e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid:30.06.2026 at 4:05 pm. Tender accepting authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender(s) without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Director,
Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health,
Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/845/CCL/2026-27

Outgoing CM Siddaramaiah arrived at Lok Bhavan to submit his resignation to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in his private car, driven by Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, a close associate of the CM. DCM DK Shivakumar, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and Energy Minister KJ George were also in the same vehicle

SIDDU LISTS OUT HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS HE TAKES FINAL BOW

- At breakfast meeting, announces that Shivakumar would be next CM
- Refuses top brass offer of RS seat, will continue to be active in state
- Guv to accept resignation only after meeting him in person today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BOWING out as Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah listed out his achievements during the two tenures he had over eight years and thanked the seven crore Kannadigas as well as the Congress leadership for the opportunity to serve the state in a press conference.

At a press conference at his residence, Krishna, on Thursday that lasted 40 minutes, Siddramaiah used the Kannada matinee idol late Dr Rajkumar's legendary phrase 'Abhimani devarugalu' (fan-gods) to express his gratitude to his supporters. He also thanked the Congress leadership of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge for giving him the opportunity as well as party workers, legislators and MPs who showered their affection since he joined the party in 2006.

Siddaramaiah, who broke down in a breakfast meeting he hosted for his cabinet colleagues earlier in the day, eventually looked composed at the press conference which he addressed after submitting his resignation at Lok Bhavan in the afternoon. "I come from a village with no political background. My family members, including my parents, were illiterate. So, I never dreamt of becoming an MLA, minister, LoP or CM," he said.

"Until my last breath I will fight against communal forces. I have faith in the Constitution. If it was not for the Constitution, I would not have become an MLA and CM, but would have remained a shepherd or a tenant farmer," he said.

He said politicians can sustain their power only if they have the backing of the people. "I never compromised with my ideology of ensuring that every last person in society gets access to basic needs such as food, health, education and housing," he said. The Five Guarantees worked in that direction, he added. He said that since the beginning of his political career starting as a taluk board member in Mysuru in 1978, he has believed in the principles of Buddha, Basavanna and Mahatma Gandhi. He said he believes in Rashtrakavi Kuvempus' concept of 'sarva janangada shantiya tota' (garden of peace of all communities), saying that everyone should get equal opportunities in society.

He said that as CM he fulfilled 158 of the 165 promises during his first term (2013-2018) and 300 out of the 550 promises during the current term. He said that Rs 1.4 lakh crore was spent on the five guarantees that revolutionised the lives of people as their purchasing power has improved.

Siddaramaiah said he disproved of the 'false propaganda' of opposition parties and Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Congress government will go bankrupt if the guarantees were implemented. Karnataka stands first in per capita income, second in GST collection for the financial year 2026-27, and the state's growth rate stood at 8.1 percent as against country's 7.4 per cent, he pointed out. He dismissed allegations that the debts were on the rise, saying they were within the parameters of Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002, enacted during the tenure of late SM Krishna. The total liabilities were at 24.94% of GSDP, below 25%, and the fiscal deficit (2.95%) is below 3%, he pointed out.

Siddaramaiah, who has presented a record 17 budgets, blamed the Centre for the state's revenue deficit of Rs 22,957 crore in the 2026-27 budget as it had not released the grants due to the state. The state was deprived of Rs 11,495 crore grants, Rs 5,300 crore promised in the 2023-24 Union Budget, Rs 17,000 crore under Jal Jivan Mission, he said. The GST compensation too was stopped, he added.

He recalled that it was Sira's (Tumakuru district) Ashraf Hussain who introduced him to the late Ahmed Patel who, in turn, introduced him to Sonia Gandhi that eventually led him to join Congress with eight JDS MLAs.

SIDDU ANNOUNCED DKS AS CM: HK PATIL

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil, who attended the breakfast meeting on Thursday, told reporters that Siddaramaiah announced that DK Shivakumar will be the next chief minister

> **The five guarantees improved the purchasing power of people. I was never after power and money. I have served their cause. My political life is an open book**
>
> Siddaramaiah, outgoing CM

CM-in-waiting DK Shivakumar seeks the blessings of outgoing CM Siddaramaiah during the breakfast meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Now, Cong braces for KPCC succession tussle

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @Belagavi

AS the leadership tussle in the state Congress government comes to a decisive end, another tug-of-war is beginning to dominate the party's internal politics: the battle to take over the mantle of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president.

Though Congress has several political heavyweights, like ministers Dr G Parameshwara, Eshwar Khandre and Ramalinga Reddy to replace DK Shivakumar as KPCC chief, it is PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi who is at the centre of the emerging tussle. A strong contender for the key post, he is learnt to have expressed strong displeasure over the Congress high command's reported insistence that he relinquish his ministerial berth if he is to take over as state party chief. But, party sources said, Jarkiholi is willing to shoulder the responsibility, but only on the condition that he be allowed to continue as minister.

The senior AHINDA leader and close associate of the outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is said to have pointed to the arrangement enjoyed by Shivakumar, who continued as KPCC president even after being made deputy chief minister after the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly polls. He feels that denying him a similar concession would amount to unequal treatment, his followers said.

But the party high command is reluctant to allow it this time, party insiders said. The leadership is understood to have also invoked the 'one person, one post' principle.

Political analysts felt that the Congress high command faces a delicate balancing act. On one hand, it is keen to avoid concentration of power in a single leader's hands and on the other, it is aware that alienating a mass leader like Jarkiholi, who commands influence across several districts and enjoys considerable support among backward classes and Dalits, could create fresh fault lines within the party. If Jarkiholi refuses to give up his ministerial position, the party may be forced to explore alternative names for the KPCC chief's post.

Breakfast meet turns emotional for Siddu, DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE breakfast meeting called by outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday turned out to be an emotional event. It was not Siddaramaiah alone who was overwhelmed, but even his Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and other cabinet colleagues.

Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar hugged each other. Later, Shivakumar touched Siddaramaiah's feet and sought his blessings. Several ministers at the meeting were also in tears. Addressing his cabinet colleagues, Siddaramaiah reportedly said he was resigning wholeheartedly as per the party high command. "I am happy with the work we have done. I want all of you to continue the good work," he told the ministers.

Over a breakfast menu of idli-vada, uppittu, kesaribath, dosa and pongal, Siddaramaiah thanked his cabinet colleagues for their cooperation over the last three years, at which point he choked and broke down.

Later, he announced that Shivakumar would be the next CM and appealed to ministers to extend the same cooperation to him, when Shivakumar too turned visibly emotional. Siddaramaiah also urged leaders to uphold the party's ideology.

Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and CM-in-waiting DK Shivakumar present a united front on Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Dawn of the DKS era in Cong & K'taka ...

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

WITH Doddalahalli Kempegowda Shivakumar set to take over as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka, Congress ushered in a generational shift within the party and state politics.

The 64-year-old Vokkaliga strongman had long nurtured the ambition of becoming chief minister. Finally, what worked for him was his unflinching loyalty to the party high command and the power-sharing agreement purportedly reached between him and Siddaramaiah in May 2023 when Congress formed its government in the state.

The Congress' "trouble-shooter", known for tenacity in accepting challenges and fighting them without giving up, will get a two-year tenure as CM. His experience as deputy chief minister in the Siddaramaiah government, the full backing of the party high command and Congress enjoying an absolute majority of 134 MLAs in the 224-member Assembly, are to the credit of Shivakumar, who is in his eighth term as MLA.

While support from outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be crucial, the incoming CM faces a Herculean task of ensuring that the party and the state government work as one cohesive unit, without multiple power centres in the government or factions within the party.

As KPCC president, he was credited with turning around the party's fortunes and bringing in much-needed confidence among its cadre when their morale was at its lowest after successive defeats in elections. Shivakumar, who was first elected as MLA in 1989 when he was 27 years old and as a minister in his early 30s, was often known for his assertive style of functioning. However, in the last few months, it looked as though he had been working hard on shedding his aggressive image and projecting himself as an intellectual politician, even penning a book on irrigation projects in India.

A combination of dynamism and experience is what comes in handy when he takes up the new role even as Congress' central leadership is going in for a complete reboot of the government and the party, aiming to retain power after the 2028 Assembly polls. While the party's new state unit chief will be tasked to galvanise the cadre, the task of bringing the party back to power also rests on Shivakumar as the new CM and his team. The elections to five corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and polls to local bodies would be the first major test for Shivakumar, who, as Bengaluru development minister, had started implementing several big-ticket projects in the state capital. Some of those projects – especially the Tunnel Road – are facing criticism and stiff opposition for a lack of adequate due diligence. Also, as water resources minister, he has been pushing hard for the implementation of the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir project near Kanakapura and other projects.

The new team also faces the big task of addressing anti-incumbency against the government, bringing in much-needed vigour to the administration that has taken a hit due to speculations over the leadership tussle, and also setting a strong narrative that the Congress government is not just about guarantees, but is also development-oriented.

The Vokkaliga leader, who effortlessly reels out Sanskrit shlokas, is also accused of flaunting "soft-Hindutva". A section of party leaders is of the view that Shivakumar's leadership will help the party win over the support of the dominant Vokkaliga community in the Old Mysuru region, and that the "soft-Hindutva" image could help blunt the opposition's allegations of Congress' perceived "minority appeasement". However, the party cannot afford to take the minority community for granted, especially after the Davanagere bypoll. A fine balancing is what the new CM and his team would be looking at.

Tackling crises, and often turning them into opportunities, is not new to Shivakumar, who faced the worst crisis in his political life after Income Tax Department raids in 2017 and subsequent Enforcement Directorate cases. Although he came under the scanner of central investigating agencies, politically, he emerged like a phoenix, even mustering the support of the party's top leadership and voters.

Siddu may discuss cabinet formation, MLC, RS polls with Rahul

Outgoing CM Siddaramaiah, after submitting his resignation to the special secretary to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday, left for New Delhi to meet the Congress central leadership. "After his return from Delhi on May 26, Siddaramaiah took the decision to resign after confirming with the party high command. Thereafter, he didn't take time to decide. Today, after resigning, he left for Delhi to meet the high command leaders to inform them that as directed by them, he has put in his papers. It is the Congress protocol and Siddaramaiah is following it. He will also discuss Cabinet formation, MLC elections and Rajya Sabha nominations with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi," sources told TNIE. "Siddaramaiah by resigning has gained stature. The party high command will take him into confidence and consider his suggestions," added sources.

... As Siddu's illustrious career comes to an end

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

CRITICS could say Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's era in power politics has come to an end with him resigning from the top post, but given his illustrious political career spanning nearly half a century, he will continue to have a sway over state politics. Rejecting the Rajya Sabha seat offer by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is a testimony to his political acumen as he realised the limitations it would put him under.

The 77-year-old AHINDA -- Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits -- champion won a nickname for himself as 'annaramaiah' during his first tenure as CM (2013-2018) for implementing the free food grains scheme and 'guarantee ramaiah' in his second innings for implementing the five guarantees.

But controversies surrounded him as during his first tenure, he was accused of the Arkavathy Layout land denotification and Hublot watch scams. He had received the expensive wristwatch from a businessman. Despite these allegations, he survived to complete the full five years of his term. The issue of change in leadership came up several times, but with the strong backing of the party high command, he could shake off any such threat, his close associates said.

But his second term of three years and eight days was more stormy as attempts were made by those within the party and the opposition to dethrone him. Over the MUDA sites allotment involving his wife Parvathy, the opposition BJP and JDS had taken out a campaign and held a rally on his home turf Mysuru. As his rivals within Congress too were baying for his blood, the party high command, including Rahul stood firm behind him. Senior Supreme Court lawyers Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal came to his rescue, while his wife surrendered the sites to MUDA, giving him a big political relief.

The high command waited for him to complete half of the five-year term to ask him to hand over power to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar as part of an agreement arrived at after the party came to power in 2023. When he expressed his wish to continue as CM, Shivakumar started exerting pressure on the high command since November 2025 that led to recurring tussle over power sharing.

Siddaramaiah's sympathisers attribute the feeling that his second term not being as effective as the first to more power centres within the ruling dispensation. But the high command took note of his alleged failure in handling the alleged multi-crore scam in Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation, where B Nagendra resigned as minister. Siddaramaiah's another aide and minister KN Rajanna was dismissed from the party for criticising Rahul's vote chori campaign against BJP.

After the Davanagere South bypoll, his political secretary Naseer Ahmed was also sacked for alleged anti party activities. That Siddaramaiah could not rescue his supporters was a clear indication that the high command had made up its mind over transfer of power. An internal report on anti-incumbency that was cropping up and alleged maladministration damaging the image of the government and the party shocked the high command, forcing it to say "enough is enough" and go for a change, sources said.

Now, with power out of his hands, it will be interesting to see how challenging it will be for him to remain relevant in state politics by safeguarding the interests of his supporters. Since joining Congress in 2006, he continued to be in one or the other power posts, including two times as leader of opposition in Assembly and twice as CM, making him the most-successful politician in contemporary state politics, analysts said.

As Karnataka's two other contemporary mass leaders -- JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda and BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa, who have sway over Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva Lingayats, Siddaramaiah continues to have an influence over the state's third largest Kuruba community. Like the other two leaders, Siddaramaiah too realised that his mooring is in state politics.

FIVE CMs IN 10 YEARS

DOES CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AFFECT GOVERNANCE?

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA has witnessed five changes of chief ministers in the last decade, including Siddaramaiah, who submitted his resignation on Thursday. While political analysts say the duration of a chief minister's tenure may not directly impact governance, some believe frequent leadership changes do affect administration. Since 2016, the state has been led by five chief ministers, including Siddaramaiah's two terms. Siddaramaiah, who first took oath in 2013, continued as CM till 2018. After the 2018 Assembly elections, HD Kumaraswamy became Chief Minister heading the Congress-JDS coalition government. Following defections that collapsed the coalition, the BJP came to power with BS Yediyurappa as CM in 2019, followed by Basavaraj Bommai in 2021.

Siddaramaiah returned as Chief Minister in 2023 and now DK Shivakumar is likely to succeed him. A senior Congress leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there are both positive and negative aspects to frequent leadership changes. "Every new chief minister brings fresh ideas and may take the state in a different direction. But at the same time, projects and policies initiated by previous governments may not continue," the leader said. "In recent years, Karnataka has seen several laws introduced by one government and withdrawn by the next. This happened in a span of one or two years. Textbook lessons have also changed with change in governments and CMs. Every new chief minister usually brings a new team of ministers, who in turn prefer different IAS officers. This will obviously lead to frequent transfers. This impacts administration and may delay implementation of projects," he added.

However, political scientist Prof Sandeep Shastri said there is no direct link between the tenure of a chief minister and governance. "Since 1999, only two Chief Ministers, SM Krishna and Siddaramaiah, had relatively stable tenures. But a full term does not necessarily guarantee effective governance. There is no direct correlation between the number of years a chief minister serves and the quality of governance," he said.

A 17-year-old tribal girl from Dhenkanal has claimed that she was traded twice and repeatedly raped for over two years in Uttar Pradesh. The incident came to light after the survivor managed to escape from the clutches of her captors and reached back home in Odisha

TN CM C Joseph Vijay receives a ceremonial guard of honour at Tamil Nadu House during his maiden official visit to the national capital on Thursday | PTI

TVK makes efforts to upgrade party units

PRABHAKAR TAMILARASU
@Chennai

WITH the election dust barely settled, the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has turned its attention towards building up the party machinery with the intention to expand and strengthen the existing structure.

TVK president and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay had given the task of restructuring and strengthening the party to minister and party's chief coordinator KA Sengottaiyan, who left the AIADMK last November to join TVK.

Speaking to *TNIE*, a source privy to the developments said that the senior TVK leaders have started to review the performance of as many as 120 district secretaries, apart from recognising the groundwork of the second-rung leaders in the district and also constituency wise.

"Based on the review, the existing party units may be restructured by expanding it and new district secretaries will be appointed. In well-established parties, the party's district secretaries will be the minister in the region, who will have a say in the party unit as well the government. But, most of the ministers do not hold a significant post inside the party. So, they would be given a significant post after restructuring," source told *TNIE*.

Amid this backdrop, sources said that the party is on a spree to induct more people from other parties, including the AIADMK. On Thursday, over 300 functionaries, including former minister Vellamandi N Natarajan, former DGP and MLA R Natraj, former MLAs R Thangadurai and M Rajasekhar (Rajapalayam), along with former district secretaries, union councillors and youth wing members from the AIADMK and other parties joined the TVK at its headquarters in Panaiyur.

> **Based on the review, the existing party units may be restructured by expanding them and new district secretaries appointed**
>
> —Source

However, TVK general secretary N Anand, during his address, was cautious of keeping the flock together and stated that existing party workers and functionaries need not worry about the newcomers. The TVK, which has about 120 district secretaries in Chennai alone, had allocated one constituency to one district secretary to take care of election work ahead of the polls.

WITH SIDDU GONE, QUESTIONS OVER CONG AHINDA BASE

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

WITH the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the leadership change issue, projected by the party high command as a step towards greater organisational unity and renewed momentum, has now raised serious questions about the Congress' ability to retain its crucial AHINDA coalition that powered its victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Siddaramaiah, widely regarded as the most influential backward caste mass leader in Karnataka since former CM Devaraj Urs, has been central to transforming AHINDA from a political slogan into a potent electoral alliance. His ability to mobilise dozens of small, fragmented OBC communities, many numbering just a few thousand voters per constituency, along with solid support from Muslims and Dalits, proved decisive in countering the BJP. This social engineering experiment even when he was in JDS led to his earlier expulsion from that party.

However, concern is mounting that this support was heavily personality-driven. Without Siddaramaiah at the helm, party insiders and observers felt that micro OBC groups could fragment or realign along narrower community lines. BJP leader and former minister Varthur Prakash, who belongs to Siddaramaiah's Kuruba community and was once close to him, delivered a sharp warning. He predicted that the Congress could be reduced to as few as 40 seats in the next election without Siddaramaiah. Even in defeat, Prakash argued, the party could have retained 80-90 seats under his leadership because of the strong emotional connection with backward class voters. Many protests were held across the state by Siddaramaiah supporters who were clearly unhappy that he was asked to step down. Backward Class Minister Santosh Lad openly wept. Analysts have drawn parallels with the BJP's decision to replace Lingayat strongman B S Yediyurappa with Basavaraj Bommai mid-term, a move widely seen as a strategic error that weakened the party's core support base. Congress now stands accused of repeating a similar mistake by sidelining a proven social coalition-builder for internal stability. The Congress leadership believes the transition is essential. Prolonged factional tensions between the Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camps had created persistent instability. By elevating Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga leader known for his organisational skills, aggressive campaigning and financial strength, the party hopes to consolidate the dominant Vokkaliga while projecting fresh energy ahead of the 2028 Assembly polls.

Yet this strategy carries risks. Shivakumar's appeal is often viewed as more regionally and community-specific compared to Siddaramaiah's broader AHINDA outreach. Questions remain whether Vokkaliga consolidation can offset potential losses among backward classes and minorities. Some are sceptical if Vokkaligas will leave JDS and move to the Congress.

Villagers watch CM Siddaramaiah's press conference on TV at his village Siddaramanahundi in Mysuru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Siddu leaves for Delhi to meet top brass

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Siddaramaiah left on a chartered flight for New Delhi on Thursday to meet the high command, including Rahul, senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, to express his gratitude, and reiterate his refusal to accept the Rajya Sabha seat. He is also likely to hold talks with central party leaders to press for ministerial positions and cabinet berths for his loyal MLAs. Shivakumar, too, left for New Delhi on an Air India flight to discuss cabinet formation. Siddaramaiah clarified that he has no intentions of switching to national politics despite Rahul offering him an RS seat. "I have very humbly declined. I have no interest in national politics. I am staying right here. The people have elected me for a five-year term, and there are still two years left. Until then, my focus is entirely on being there for the people of Karnataka and the people of my constituency," he said. He asserted that till his last breath he would fight against the communal forces, besides uplifting the poor. "I kept saying from the beginning that I will resign when the high command asks me to," he said. **ENS**

More new faces likely in Shivakumar's cabinet

Mysuru region now politically orphaned as Siddu steps down

MYSURU region stands politically orphaned with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation. For more than five decades, the old Mysuru region has produced two socialist mass leaders D Devaraj Urs and Siddaramaiah, who went on to script history by becoming the longest-serving CMs of the state. Now with Siddaramaiah's resignation, the region that once dictated Karnataka's ideological direction suddenly finds itself staring at an unsettling political vacuum. Urs, known as the architect of Karnataka's backward class politics and land reforms, served as CM for more than 2,500 days between 1972 and 1980, fundamentally altering the social structure of the state. **ENS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BESIDES Rahul, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's nod too would be crucial as his son and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge could also be considered for DCM, raising questions over the number of DCMs Shivakumar would have. As for the cabinet, more new faces are likely to be inducted besides retaining the heavyweights like KJ George, MB Patil, Dr G Parameshwara, Krishna Byre Gowda, Zameer Ahmed Khan and Byrathi Suresh, among others, sources said.

Parameshwara is looking for the industries department, but sources said he could be offered the Speaker's post. Sources said the new faces being considered for cabinet berths include Hanagal MLA Srinivas Mane, MLCs BK Hariprasad and Saleem Ahmed, Narasimharaja constituency MLA Tanvir Sait, and Speaker UT Khader, sources said. Senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy told *TNIE*, "We will get clarity on the CLP meeting by Friday. The process may take a day or two, and we expect the swearing-in ceremony to happen on June 1." Another Congress leader said the transition of power is being handled smoothly. "Now it also depends on Shi- vakumar consulting astrologers," the leader said. The leaders are expected to discuss the number of deputy cms, cabinet portfolios and the appointment of a new KPCC president, as the post would fall vacant if Shivakumar assumes office as CM.

PUBLIC NOTICE

With reference to the above subject matter, our clients Smt.Haseena Begum and Smt.Zeenat Unnisa being a legal heirs of Late. Sri Syed Ziyaulla Sab have filed an appeal under Section 136(2) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, challenging the revenue entries in respect of Sy.No.96/2, measuring 2 acres 27 guntas, Sy.No. 96/8, measuring 1 acre 4 guntas and Sy.No.96/9, measuring 1 acre 3 guntas all are situated at Medi Mallasandra Village, Anugondanhalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk against **Krish-V Facility Management Services Pvt. Ltd.,** No.1797, 14th Main Road, 5th Block, Brindavannagar, H.B.R. Layout, Bengaluru, challenging the revenue entries in appeal numbers **R.A. No. 123/2025** and **R.A. No. 124/2025** respectively which is pending for consideration before the Special Asst. Commissioner, Doddaballapur. Our clients are also the absolute owners of the remaining land in the aforesaid survey numbers and in total they are the owners of Sy.No.99, measuring 21 acres 5 guntas, Sy.No.98, measuring 17 acres 35 guntas, Sy.No.94, measuring 1 acre 37 guntas and Sy.No.96/1 and 96/2, measuring 17 acres 37 guntas, which belongs to Sri Syed Ziaullah Saab and his legal heirs Smt.Haseena Begum and Smt.Zeenat Unnisa and his other children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren (about 47 to 50 legal heirs) who are the absolute and original owners of the land and as per their instructions it has been found that some of the third parties have created their names without their knowledge in the revenue records pertaining to the above said property by way of illegal transactions and the said entries and the documents would be challenged before the competent courts of law and therefore all the public's are hereby informed to not enter into any type of conveyance, deeds, agreements or any type of documents to be registered in respect of the aforesaid lands and even after if any documents are found to be entered by any of the parties and the said documents would be challenged before the competent courts of law and they will be held responsible for the consequences arising there from.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that peace and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.98, measuring 17 acres 32 guntas, Sy.No.99, measuring 21 acres 5 guntas, situated at Medimallasandra Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk bounded on:- East by : Border of Jodikallukunte Agrahara. West by : Property belongs to Rahim Sab and Nazeer Sab. North by : Government Road. South by : Harohalli Border.

Sriram Law Associate's
NAGARAJA HEGDE, Advocate
No. 55, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560020.
Bengaluru, Date : 28.05.2026

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-II) AT BENGALURU-560 001

O. A. No.2064 /2025

Between: Bank of Baroda ,
Devanahalli Branch ....**Applicant**
And
Mr. Indranil Mukharjee, S/o. Ratan Lala Mukharjee, PAN: ANLPM0834G
Addressed at : Flat No. B 103, 8/3 SH 35, MSR Silicon Spring, Belathur Lane, Opp. HDFC, Bengaluru South, Karnataka - 560 067. ....**Defendant No. 1**

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for recovery of sum of **Rs.55,17,968/-** (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Eight Only) Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **01.07.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on 16.03.2026.

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are Re- invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 81558, (2) 81565, (3) 81602.

Note: For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

PRO/AAM(M)/28/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that Sri.Ramachandra S/o Seenappa, residing at # 14/1, Sriramapura, Bangalore North, Jakkur, Bangalore North Bangalore, Karnataka – 560064 is the owner of the Schedule Property described infra.

It is noticed that original sale deed dated 13.04.1999 (doc.no.257/1999-00) pertaining to the schedule property is lost / misplaced. In this connection, an E-Complaint has been lodged on 27.05.2026 at Bangalore City Police Station, Bangalore, bearing Serial no.2224941.

The finder of the said document is requested to surrender the original sale deed dated 13.04.1999 (doc.no.257/1999-00) to the undersigned within 10 days from this day, failing which, it shall be deemed that the sale deed is irretrievably lost and duplicate / certified copy of the same shall be obtained from the office of Sub-registrar of Assurances in lieu of lost original for the purpose of records.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing katha no.401, House list no.10, situated at Rachenahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West : 30 ft., and North to South : 40 ft., (totally 1200 Sq. ft.,) and bounded as follows: On the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Munivenkatappa's Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site no.9.

VANILLA, Advocate
No.520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G Road, Bangalore-560 009. Ph - 41247862 & 41224958
Date: 28.05.2026

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/185/2026
Dated : 22.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Consultancy, Site investigation, Detailed Master Planning, Urban Designing, Engineering and Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Yelahanka Mega Coaching Terminal - Augmentation of Coaching Maintenance and Platform Facilities at Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka – Bengaluru **(Tender Ref. No. TECH-CONSULTANCY-R)**	Rs. 4,10,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 12-06-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/159/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR
(Established by the Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014)
Near Village Waranga, P.O. Dongargaon (Butibori), Nagpur – 441108
Website: www.nlunagpur.ac.in

The Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor.

Qualifications:

i) He shall be an academician and having 10 Years of experience as a Professor of Law, in a University, or in a college on a post approved by a University.
ii) He must be possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.
iii) He should, in the estimation of the Chancellor, be capable of providing effective leadership to the University.

Duly filled-in applications must reach at or before 5 p.m. of 30th June, 2026, only by Registered post/ Speed Post (Not by private courier agencies), to the following address:

'The Registrar, Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, Waranga, PO: Dongargaon (Butibori), Nagpur-441108 Maharashtra.'

Detailed Notification regarding the qualification, age, salary and service conditions, term, powers and functions, procedure for appointment, the General Conditions and instructions along with the form of application, and all the other details are on the University's web-site. For same, please visit University's official web-site <www.nlunagpur.ac.in>.

Sd/-
(Deepak L. Bhagwat)
Registrar, MNLU, Nagpur

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
"VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS"

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.:-** 09-2026-SrDENC, **Name of Work:-** 1) Provision of RCC side drain in SSE/P.Way/JH section under ADEN/KWV(BG) subdivision and in SSE/P.Way/KWV(S) & SSE/P.Way/SUR(N) under ADEN/SUR(N) jurisdiction on Solapur division., **Approximate Cost of the work.:-** Rs. 50416013.13, **Earnest Money:-** Rs. 1008300.00, **Completion period of the work.:-** 12 Months, **Maintenance Period:-** 12 Months, **Tender Notice No.:-** 10-2026-SrDENC, **Name of Work:-** Provision of approach road in railway colonies under ADEN/BG/KWV sub division., **Approximate Cost of the work.:-** Rs. 34759562.81, **Earnest Money:-** Rs. 695200.00, **Completion period of the work.:-** 06 Months, **Maintenance Period:-** 12 Months, **Tender Notice No.:-** 11-2026-SrDENC, **Name of Work:-** Repairs and Augmentation of Signal Gumati for RPF staff in DD(Excl.)-KWV section, SEI, BTW & MLB station., **Approximate Cost of the work.:-** Rs. 7518586.83, **Earnest Money:-** Rs. 150400.00, **Completion period of the work.:-** 06 Months, **Maintenance Period:-** 12 Months, **Tender Notice No.:-** 12-2026-SrDENC, **Name of Work:-** Sewage treatment plant(15 KLD) with UG tank, water pipe line, pump house & waste water flow system at JEUR under ADEN(BG)KWV., **Approximate Cost of the work.:-** Rs. 6512594.26, **Earnest Money:-** Rs. 130300.00, **Completion period of the work.:-** 12 Months, **Maintenance Period:-** 12 Months Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on **www.ireps.gov.in** website:- 18/06/2026 15.00 hrs., Date & Time of Opening of tender on **www.ireps.gov.in:-** 18/06/2026 15.00 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

23 **DRM (Works)/Solapur**

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-II) AT BENGALURU-560 001

O. A. No.1507 /2022

Between: Bank of Baroda ,
Palace Orchards Branch ....**Applicant**
And
Mrs. Aishwarya Gummareddy Byrareddy W/o. Sri Vikram Prabhakar, ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To: 1. **M/s. Vaishnavi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Pvt Ltd.,**
...**Defendant No. 2**

Represented by its Director , Sri N. Sreenivasa, Corporate Identification Number is (CIN) U45200KA2008PTC046243 And Registered address is 43/1, Tumkur Road, Adjasant to Union Bank of India, Yeshwanthapur, Bangalore - 560 022.
....**Defendants**

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for recovery of sum of **Rs.58,98,898/-** (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) thereon together with current and future interest and other reliefs. You are , hereby summonsed to appear and file a written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on **09.07.2026** to answer the claim.

2. You are directed to collect the annexure on your appearance before the Tribunal.
3. If you intend to file any cocuments, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement.
4. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before thee Tribunal either in person or by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed.
5. Take notice that, in default of, your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on 05.05.2026.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II (DRT-II) OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore

O. A. No.2675/2024

(Form-IV) Summons under sub-section(4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub - Rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

BETWEEN : CANARA BANK, (Formerly known as Syndicate Bank) DVG Road Branch-II, Gandhibazar, Bangalore ....**Applicant**

AND

1.M/s. Anurag Motors, Represented by its Managing Partner, Sri M. N. Sridhar S/o. Nagendraiah.
2. Sri M .N .Sridhar S/o. Nagendraiah ,
3. Smt. Savitha Sridhar W/o. M. N. Sridhar. ...**Defendants**

Whereas OA No. 2675/2024 was listed before the Hon'ble Registrar on 16.02.2026.

Whereas the Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said application under Section 19(4) of the Act. Original Application filed against you for recovery of :

a. A Sum of Rs.3,05,25,552/-(Rupees Three Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Two Only), together with interest at 11.20%p.a. which includes penal interest @ 2%p.a. from 27.09.2024 till date of payment of the debt in full, in OD A/c. No. 04411400001971.

b.A sum of Rs.54,51,141/-(Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs fifty One Thousand One Hundred Forty One Only) together with interest at 11.40% p.a. which includes penal interest @ 2%p.a. from 27.09.2024 till date of payment of the debt in full, in Term Loan A/c. No. 04419450000026.

c.A sum of Rs.30,00,602/-(Rupees Thirty Lakhs Six Hundred and Two Only) together with interest at 9.2% p.a. which includes penal interest @ 2%p.a. from 27.09.2024 till date of payment of the debt in full, in Term Loan A/c. No. 04419160000298.

d.A sum of Rs.29,74,321/-(Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One Only) together with interest at 9.2% p.a. which includes penal interest @ 2%p.a. from 27.09.2024 till date of payment of the debt in full, in Term Loan A/c. No. 170002428520. (application along with copies of documents annexed)

In accordance with Sub-Section(4) of Section 19 of the Act., you the defendants are corrected as under:

1) To showcause within Thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted .
2)To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the Applicant under serial No. 3A of the Original Application.
3) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing off secured assets or such other assets or properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the Original Application pending hearing and disposal of the application of attachment of properties.
4) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the Original Application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.
5) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets
6) You are directed to file written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the application and to appear before the Registrar on **25.06.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the 23.02.2026

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II,Bangalore

Repco Home Finance Limited
BASAVESHWARANAGAR BRANCH: Door No.51,(FF), Above Hotel Namura Upachara, 1st A-Cross,LIC Model Colony, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Opposite Axis Bank Ltd, West of Cord Road, Basaveshwaranagar - 560 079

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Properties Mortgaged to Repco Home Finance Ltd. Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Whereas **Borrower: Mr.M.R.Nagaraju,** S/o.Mrs.Rajamma, **Co-Borrower: Mrs.R.Rajamma,** W/o.Late Mr.Rajanna, have borrowed money from **Repco Home Finance Limited, Basaveshwara Nagar Branch** against the mortgage of the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, the company has issued a Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Sarfaesi Act, 2002 on 18.11.2025 calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice vide Old Loan Account No.**1861871000699 & New Loan A/c No. AHL10070186003044 (App.No.238228)** being **₹13,88,790/-** as on **12.11.2025** together with further interest, costs and expenses within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

Whereas the Borrower, Co-Borrower & Guarantor having failed to pay the amount due to the Company as called for in the said demand notice, the Company has taken Possession of the secured asset more fully described in the schedule hereunder on **26.03.2026** under Section 13 (4) of the Act.

Whereas the Borrowers having failed to pay the dues in full, the secured creditor, **Repco Home Finance Limited** has decided to sell the under mentioned secured asset in **"As is where is condition"** and **"As is what is condition"** under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for realization of the debts dues to the company. The dues of the borrower being vide Loan A/c No. **AHL10070186003044 (App.No.238228)** being **₹ 14,88,709/-** as on **20.05.2026.**

Date / Time of E - Auction: 30.06.2026, Between 11.00 a.m. and 12.00 Noon (with unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes)

Last Date & time for submitting E-Tenders: 29.06.2026, 04.00 p.m

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: **Schedule 'A' Property:** All that Proportionate undivided share of land admeasuring 133.96 Square feet or 12.46 Square meters out of land admeasuring **26990 Square Feet or 2511 Square meters,** covered by **Block Nos.III, IV and IX, in *JANAPRIYA TOWNSHIP',** situated at Survey No.10/1, Khatha Nos.192 and 193 presently in **Kadabagere Village Panchayath, situated at Kadabagere Village Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** and Bounded on: East: Open space for Set Back, West: Open space for Park, North: Road, South: Open Space for Set Back.

Schedule 'B' Property: All that finished construction on **Flat No.3028/3rd Block, Second Floor** with a super built-up area of **600 Sq.ft** with Mosaic Flooring, Honnewood Doors and with Steel windows in Janapriya Township situated at Survey No.10/1 and "E" Khatha No.150200201400201658, **Kadabagere Village, Machohalli Panchayat, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** are Bounded by: East : Passage to Staircase, West:4th Block Flats, North: Flat No.3025, South: Flat No.3029.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 22,80,000/- EMD (10% of Reserve Price) ₹ 2,28,000/- Minimum Bid Increment Amount ₹ 20,000/-

For E-Auction procedure, please M/s. 4 Closure. Mr.T. Jaya Prakash Reddy- 81420 00064.
For inspection of the property the intending bidders may contact the Branch Head, Repco Home Finance Limited, Basaveshwara Branch, on all working days between 10.00 a.m & 5.00 p.m. Contact No.080-4123 3109 & 98868-78838.

Date: 22.05.2026 **Authorised Officer, Repco Home Finance Limited**

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EDITORIAL

"What separates privilege from entitlement is gratitude" — Brené Brown

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

S.I.R. VERDICT SEEKS BALANCE BETWEEN INTEGRITY, INCLUSION

THE Supreme Court's verdict on the Election Commission's special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar broadly upholds the commission's constitutional authority to undertake the exercise, while underlining the obligation to ensure fairness, transparency and protection of voters' rights. In doing so, the judgement attempts to balance electoral integrity with democratic inclusion.

The court located the commission's authority principally in Article 324 of the Constitution, which vests in it the "superintendence, direction and control" of elections, read together with the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules. It also invoked Article 326, which guarantees adult suffrage, to hold that maintaining accurate electoral rolls is intrinsic to free and fair elections. Equally significant was the reminder that Article 325 bars exclusion from electoral rolls on discriminatory grounds.

The court examined four central concerns: whether the commission possessed the authority to conduct the revision; whether genuine voters could be disenfranchised; whether documentary requirements could become exclusionary; and the extent to which courts should intervene during an ongoing electoral process. The verdict largely accepted the commission's position that periodic cleansing of rolls is necessary to preserve electoral integrity. But it cautioned against arbitrary exclusion and procedural overreach, particularly in relation to migrants, poorer citizens, the elderly and those lacking documentation.

The judgement's central takeaway is clear: electoral roll revision is constitutionally permissible, but it cannot become a process that excludes legitimate voters. It reiterated that participation in elections lies at the heart of democratic life and directed the Election Commission to ensure accessibility, fairness and adherence to due procedure.

The verdict also leaves a few concerns unresolved. Petitioners had raised objections regarding inadequate timelines, shifting procedures, confusion over acceptable documents and the possibility of citizenship scrutiny creeping into the exercise. The court acknowledged these apprehensions, but stopped short of laying down a detailed operational framework for future revisions.

The court clarified that exclusion from electoral rolls does not amount to a final determination of citizenship, as such a decision remains open to correction under law. Yet the practical implication is serious: once an election is over, denial of the right to vote cannot be retrospectively remedied. In seeking a constitutional middle path, the verdict protects the Election Commission's institutional authority while reminding it that the legitimacy of electoral cleansing rests on inclusion, accuracy and public confidence.

DIVERSIFY CROPS TO AVOID TELANGANA'S PADDY GLUT

TELANGANA is grappling with a problem of plenty that is accentuating an economic and infrastructure conundrum. The state's record production of paddy during the ongoing rabi season has, paradoxically, made things more difficult for it. The state was nowhere near the country's top paddy producers a decade ago. But increased irrigation and financial support attracted farmers to increase acreage and helped the state become one of the top producers. Now the boon, so to speak, has become a bane.

Paddy is procured primarily by the state government, with the Centre usually taking its own time to pick up a part of the produce through the Food Corporation of India. The contention between the two is mainly about quantities. The Union government caps procurement at a much lower level than the actual production, leaving the state to do the heavy-lifting.

This season, Telangana produced an estimated 140 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. After purchasing directly, the state will store, process and distribute the grain through the public distribution system; a part of the surplus will be delivered to the FCI. This year, the state's target for procurement is 70 LMT, while the Centre's is 52 LMT. Private rice millers will profit from the larger gap between production and government procurement.

Meanwhile, given the inadequacy of storage at the state's 8,575 procurement centres, farmers are forced to leave heaps of the produce out in the open. This year, a substantial share of it has already been damaged by heavy rains. It requires no expert to point out that the state needs many more storage facilities.

Paddy production surge has left Telangana vulnerable in more ways than one. The Centre has advised the state to pare about 25 lakh acres from its paddy cultivation area of more than 130 lakh acres, and ensure crop diversification—with good reason. To store what's procured, Telangana needs to borrow from banks to pay the farmers and buy storage; by the time the central reimbursements arrive, interest adds up on the loans. Even exports are not proving to be an efficient outlet. Given this, the only sustainable way out is to create awareness among farmers and incentivise them to ensure crop diversification.

QUICK TAKE

ANOTHER POPULATION CONTROL

WHAT do you do when the very thing you deploy for protection attracts the offender? New research presents this dilemma for the users of DEET, an active chemical present in some of the biggest brands of anti-mosquito liquids and ointments. A study led by Claudio Lazzari of the University of Tours in France suggests that the presence of the chemical tells preying insects where to zone in. The worry is that these products are often recommended as the last lines of defence against deadly diseases like dengue and malaria. It comes not long after the revelation that smoke from mosquito coils could be as harmful as that from tobacco. Drives to remove the conditions that allow breeding of mosquitoes need to be upped again as the monsoon advances up the peninsula.

There is no easy way out for most Asian currencies hit by the Gulf war. The central banks of these economies should coordinate responses, but their history of such intervention is disappointing

TESTING THE LIMITS OF REARGUARD ECONOMIC ACTION

SATYAJIT DAS
Former banker and author of *A Banquet of Consequences*

MANDAR PARDIKAR

RELIABLE availability of cheap energy is, as the Gulf war highlights, essential to modern economies and societies. Shocks divide the world into the oil haves and oil have-nots. Alongside higher energy prices, the shortage of chemicals derived from petrochemicals will affect agriculture, mining, plastics, textiles, semiconductors and construction. Given that it would take months or years to restore normalcy even if the conflict ends with a lasting agreement, the effects are likely to be severe.

Among those substantially affected are Europe, already burdened by their decision to cut off Russian gas supplies, and Japan. But the most major consequences will be felt across oil-poor South and East Asia. The extent of the damage depends on pre-existing vulnerabilities like insufficient currency reserves, poor public finances, trade imbalances, high debt levels (especially those denominated in foreign currencies), reliance on overseas capital, narrow industrial bases and poor contingency plans.

For energy importers, supply disruptions work through several pathways. Its most immediate manifestation is a widening current account deficit. Given the pervasive impact of transport costs, prices increase across the board. Rising input expenses for businesses affect profitability and, ultimately, viability. As essentials cost more, the fall in surplus income decreases consumption, slowing the economy and pushing up unemployment. Tax revenues fall and welfare spending kicks in, worsening government budgets. This is frequently aggravated by vote-buying subsidies, frequently to alleviate cost-of-living pressures.

The current crisis is a textbook case of how oil shocks work through economies. Financially, the most obvious signs are weakening currencies and falling asset prices. Foreign investment inflows slow. Portfolio investors exit as asset values translated into their base currency decrease. Direct investment fall reflects the poorer prospects. Banks face higher non-performing loans from the weaker economy as well as lower loan demand. The availability of funding is affected. Inflation places pressure on interest rates, which further exacerbates the stress.

What is to be done? Like the Irish farmer's direction to a traveller: "I wouldn't start from here!"

The classic policy prescription is to let the currency devalue and force the necessary adjustments. An alternative is to intervene in the currency markets and simultaneously use higher short-term interest rates to support the exchange rate. The most extreme measure is to increase government intervention restricting capital movement and, as an option, implement prices and income controls. Each path has advantages and disadvantages.

Depreciation of the currency should, in theory, have the effect of reducing imports by choking off purchases assuming the application of the normal laws of supply and demand. It should simultaneously boost exports. It forces the necessary adjustment of living standards, often brutally.

In practice, its effectiveness depends on several factors, particularly the elasticity of demand for a country's imports and exports. If the import is vital and not replaceable, or the cost can be passed on, foreign purchases may not decrease. Improvements in export volumes depend on the type of product and the demand sensitivity to price. It also depends on competition and substitutes. If competitors have superior products or are willing to match the prices, then volumes may not respond. This is particularly problematic when the whole emerging market complex is affected and all countries want to devalue at the same time, reducing the ability of a single country to cheapen its currency.

Devaluation also feeds inflation through higher import costs, unless it destroys demand. A weaker currency may accelerate capital flight as investors fear losses. It creates unhelpful behaviours with importers accelerating purchases and exporters delaying conversion of foreign currency inflows. Foreign currency borrowers without any equivalent matching revenues providing a natural hedge face rising indebtedness. Emerging market businesses frequently take advantage of lower interest rates, relative to domestic funding, running the currency risk.

Intervention in money markets rarely works. It risks using up currency reserves needed to cover commercial imports or short-term debt. Historically, success requires co-operation between major central banks, as in the 1985 Plaza Accord that devalued the dollar. Emerging-market central banks have a poor track record on this. In the 1997 Asian crisis, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia severely depleted their foreign exchange reserves in failed attempts to defend their currencies, which were fixed against the dollar. In general, where foreign currency debts and investments exceed reserves, such interventions rarely succeed.

Capital controls would require managing the exchange rate and restricting foreign currency flows. They can manage a crisis to maintain sovereignty over exchange rates, interest rates, inflation and the banking system. In the longer term, capital controls will deter foreign investment. It often leads to a currency black market and other workarounds.

In a market-based system, it is difficult to insulate an economy from external events, especially of the magnitude of the Gulf war. Poorly-developed domestic capital markets, which limit local supply of capital and risk management tools, impair the ability to absorb shocks.

Many emerging market economies are also woefully unprepared. Assuming no disruption in supply chains, they have pitifully low buffer stocks or reserves. Their economies remain narrowly structured with little diversification of their industrial base. Despite a history of energy dependence and previous disturbances, efforts to increase energy independence have been limited. Investment in renewables such as solar, wind, hydro and biofuels remains inadequate. Even emergency plans for rapidly scaling up alternative fossil fuels, like coal, are largely absent.

The exception is China, which displays significant forward planning. The country built substantial strategic oil reserves and renewable supplies, which now account for up to 40 percent of its total electricity generation and over half its installed capacity.

Governments have encouraged magical thinking among citizens, encouraging them to believe that policymakers can shield them from these events. Subsidies, transfers and price control are electorally popular, but they do not address the core problems.

Like Aesop's grasshopper, energy-deficient countries that have wasted summers of abundant supplies now face a difficult winter.

(Views are personal)

JIMMYING OPEN GYMKHANA DOORS

DILIP CHERIAN
Image guru and litigation landscaper

THE bubble has burst and nothing will quite set Humpty right again. No committee, court order, heritage note or emotional WhatsApp forward by a wailing cop can quite put it back together. A full-scale attack on clubs is now underway, leaving everyone perplexed about the intent. The touch-me-not charm that clubbers inhabiting these manicured islands of privilege had, is destroyed in a way that can't quite be described by those who haven't felt their bliss.

The roughshod entry of regulatory rulers into these hallowed portals has once again raised the question of what this brouhaha means. And club members will forever feel that horror every time they hear the bells toll.

Let's draw out the three blimps that float around in this debate. First, there are the trustees, committee members, members and their dependents, and those close to the finish line on that forever-waiting list. Then there are the outstation users and frequent guests. Employees, somehow a special worker-class (often hereditary), fall into this second category. In the third circle of the Venn diagram is the larger mass of city dwellers whose aspiration is just to be a powerful auntie in one's resident welfare association, or be part of a colonial club that doesn't entitle one to any fields of fancy, bars of belonging, or floridity of ritual beyond paying the measly dues.

Outside these three circles—'Ah, Dante!' a club classicist would exclaim—exists the rest of the world, which is busy with bhajan-based raves for the young and all-night jagratas or prayer circles for the elderly as preferred group kinks. This much larger world—and some would say, the real world—very often doesn't even realise it's living cheek-by-jowl with clubs whose walls they have never attempted to scale.

What has been shattered is the sense of colonial continuity that some clubs attempted to replicate in the little nuances they insisted were membership rituals. They used the power vested by perpetual leases to inflict behavioural regulations on those who wished to pass through their portals, escape being blackballed, and had the accountable resources to pay the fees that have become astronomical in recent years. To facetiously comprehend how exclusive these clubs are, one can consider the rumour that their 'strict' vetting process simply involves keeping out anyone who has to ask the price of a gin-and-tonic, which is heavily subsidised anyway.

In some cases, the entry regulation was made simply a matter of waiting until the death of an existing member. In others, it was genetically proscribed for some and inscribed for those lucky enough to have some controlling authority able to subpoena a hidden quota. In a few places, there was the fig leaf of producing national-level sportspersons because they had been privileged to be young participants in games they couldn't otherwise afford to attempt.

AP

> Regulators may have taken out the fizz of exclusivity Lutyens' Delhi thrived on behind the walls of colonial-era clubs. Given that India has not given up on hierarchy yet, some of these relics will survive. All of this will hardly bother the larger world outside

This illusion of exclusivity has lasted much longer than these 70 years. There are seriously important elements of those practices and privileges that are part of almost all democratic countries that have been colonised in the past. The English led by a league, but the Portuguese and French colonisers didn't quite abandon this process. Clubs were created or retained in places they had conquered.

At all points, however, exclusivity was the theme. Civility was the veneer that was put on as an overlay. Ensuring that the natives were kept in place and allowing in those who were willing and powerful collaborators—as long as they mimicked and brown-nosed their cruel rulers—was the real game. That carries on to this day. (Remember those quotas?)

Today, that same game is made out as an issue of nostalgia, of nationally-vital networking, and sometimes of nepotism disguised by some other convenient name. In the case of some clubs, the membership was automatic for administrators and uniformed star bearers, who otherwise were fleeting birds of passage in most places, but felt the need to be attached to one of these clubs in the place they intended to retire. Now, if shutdowns spread, those very worthies will have to be satisfied with their gilded service officers' institutes, even if they lack the social cachet that the 'real' clubs used to give them.

The less said about the food culture of these clubs, the better. One may make an exception for the fact that Eggs Kejriwal was invented at Mumbai's Willingdon Club, or that the Thursday night ritual at the Delhi Gymkhana had the stiffest drinks in town at the lowest rates, or that the cheeseballs were what childhood memories were made of. Elsewhere, caramel custards, mutton cutlets and cream rolls acquired sacred emotional value simply because they tasted the same every summer vacation. There are few rituals of either the food or the beverage variety that have made any impact on the world outside of the clubs. Thankfully.

This is now only notionally about land. What, then, could explain this visible tension and invisible deadline? Is this a message, like a harpoon shot across the prow of a ship that's due to be sunk? Is this the beginning of a new class war? Are the elites being reduced to rubble by the bulldozer-wallas?

The clubs may well survive. Some of them, anyway. Because India is not giving up on hierarchy yet. There will always be a market for exclusivity, old-money manners and places where the waiting list is part of the attraction. But the aura has surely been enfeebled.

(Views are personal)
(On X @dilipthecherian)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Power play

Ref: *Karnataka Cong can expect tightrope walk towards 2028 polls* (May 28). At no point of time, D K Shivakumar lost his cool in his relentless fight for the chief ministerial post and is finally able to prevail upon the Congress high command in his favour. He has toiled to bring the party to power as state president and had reason to demand his pound of flesh. Now that the mantle of leadership falls to him, D K S must prove his mettle as the CM of all of Karnataka and not for any particular community. Power must not intoxicate him.
K V Seetharamaiah, Bengaluru

Proven merit

Ref: *More questions on CBSE evaluation* (May 28). I was a CBSE student three decades ago and at that time, students got only what they deserved. Nowadays, students and parents fixate on high scores and upon being denied, their outrage is pointed out at the board and the teachers. A restructure is required to give paramount importance to learning outcomes.
Preetha T Prasad, email

Probe barriers

Ref: *ED search at Pinarayi's house sparks violence, officials hurt* (May 28). The ED should be allowed to carry out its investigation independently and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. CPI(M) cadres, having lost power, attacking ED officials is deplorable.
Eappen Elias, Thiruvananthapuram

SIR jab

Ref: *SC gives stamp of approval to poll body's SIR* (May 28). The special intensive revision helped in weeding out the list of deceased and other unauthorised persons. The Supreme Court's jab will definitely clip the hands of culprits who benefit from fake votes and dilute real democracy.
N R Nagarajan, Sivakasi

Wonder boy

Ref: *Unstoppable Sooryavanshi* (May 28). The more you watch him, the more you love him. Fearless and ferocious with the willow in hand. Vaibhav has redefined the art of six-hitting and playing out of the copy book style of cricket. It was surreal to watch players of the calibre of Pat Cummins and Klassen huddle together after each ball to this wonder kid.
Calicut Krishnan Subramani, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
No matter how big a crisis may strike the world, no one in India will ever go hungry. Our granaries are full of grain, so there is no need to worry about it.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
Eid al-Adha Mubarak to all! May this joyous occasion bring peace, love and prosperity to every home. Wishing everyone happiness and blessings.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
In the case of CBSE, the biggest problem is this: even if there's a re-evaluation of the answer sheets, what will it achieve? No one is taking responsibility.

Modi: Settle inter-state water disputes through cooperation

Calls for integrated approach combining river links, groundwater recharge and conservation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 51st PRAGATI meeting on Wednesday evening and urged states to settle inter-state water disputes through cooperation and faster administrative action. He stressed the importance of timely approvals, close monitoring through technology and coordinated implementation of large public projects. Modi said the Ken-Betwa river-linking project should serve as an example for other states facing similar water-sharing challenges.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed seven major infrastructure projects in railways, roads, and the power sector across nine states. These projects are valued at nearly ₹30,000 crore. He noted that delays in public works increase costs and prevent citizens from receiving important services on time. The review focused on deadlines, coordination among agencies and the removal of pending obstacles.

While discussing the Ken-Betwa project, Modi encouraged states to identify similar opportunities involving river-linking, water conservation, groundwater recharge and efficient irrigation systems. He said these measures should be implemented in an integrated manner to ensure long-term water security and better resource management.

PRAGATI is an ICT-based platform designed to improve governance and speed up implementation by bringing together the efforts of the Centre and the states. Apart from the river-linking project, the Prime Minister also reviewed the progress of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

In the power sector review, Modi highlighted the need to expand rooftop solar installations in urban areas, residential colonies and public institutions. While examining road and port projects, the PM said the Vadhavan Port should be developed as a model for integrated transport hub.

Modi also stressed the effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0. He said the programme must move beyond building infrastructure and focus on measurable results through monitoring, public participation and coordination among stakeholders. He directed states to speed up the construction of waste-processing facilities and GOBARdhan plants.The Prime Minister further suggested exploring installing solar panels over canal networks to reduce evaporation, conserve land, and generate renewable energy.

Modi asked ministries, departments, and state governments to adopt a more proactive, time-bound approach to clear bottlenecks and accelerate execution.

Somanathan added that the monthly review mechanism had initially taken up the Swachh Bharat Mission at the state level. According to him, the initiative is intended to ensure supervision of schemes, faster settlement of implementation difficulties and stronger accountability at both district and state levels across the country.

PM's prescription

At the **51st PRAGATI meeting,** Narendra Modi stressed faster project execution, cooperative water-sharing, renewable energy expansion and stricter implementation monitoring

DOs

Use Ken-Betwa river project as model for future river-sharing solutions

FAST-TRACK APPROVALS AND PROJECT CLEARANCES

Use technology for close monitoring of infrastructure projects

Encourage public participation in Swachh Bharat Mission

Ensure time-bound implementation of public works

Explore solar panels over canal networks to conserve water

DON'Ts

- Do not allow delays in major public infra projects
- Avoid poor coordination among ministries, departments and states
- Do not treat Swachh Bharat as infra-building exercise
- Avoid administrative bottlenecks that increase project costs
- Avoid fragmented planning in water management and irrigation projects

No double standards in fight on terror: NSA in Moscow

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

NATIONAL Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Thursday issued a strong call for a unified global response to terrorism, warning against "double standards" in dealing with terror networks and their sponsors, while addressing the first International Security Forum and the 14th Meeting of High Representatives for Security Matters in Moscow. Speaking at the gathering hosted by Sergei Shoigu, secretary of Russia's Security Council and a former defence minister, Doval said nations must make clear choices in confronting terrorism.

"Responsible nations have to evaluate their choices and decide whether they support sponsors of terrorism or counter them with decisive action," he said, in remarks seen as reflecting India's long-standing concerns over cross-border terrorism and state-backed extremist infrastructure.

The forum focused on "Challenges and Threats to International Security in the Context of the Emergence of the Multipolar World". Doval stressed that there "cannot be double standards in the fight against terrorism," and pointed out that selective approaches weaken global security frameworks and embolden extremist groups. His comments come at a time when international debates continue over state support to militant organisations and the effectiveness of existing counter-terror mechanisms. He also highlighted the need for urgent reforms in global institutions created after the Second World War, arguing that present-day security challenges require more representative international architecture.

Doval said reforms "must give greater representation to and factor in the views of the Global South", signalling India's push for a larger role in global governance structures. Addressing instability in West Asia, Doval stressed the strategic importance of safeguarding global trade routes.

On the sidelines of the forum, Doval held bilateral talks with Shoigu, where the two sides reviewed ongoing cooperation in defence, security, energy and economic sectors, an official statement said. They also exchanged views on the upcoming BRICS NSA meeting scheduled to be held in Delhi.

India, China meet and review border situation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA and China reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and expressed satisfaction over the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas, signalling cautious but steady progress in the normalisation of bilateral ties.

The 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held in Beijing on Wednesday, with both sides describing the discussions as constructive and forward-looking. The mechanism has played a central role in managing tensions since clashes erupted along the LAC in eastern Ladakh in 2020.

According to MEA, the two sides "reviewed the situation" and "expressed satisfaction with the progress made in maintaining peace", which had enabled "gradual normalisation of bilateral relations". The Chinese foreign ministry similarly said the border areas had maintained "lasting peace and tranquility".

Sikh face to lead BJP as Punjab goes to polls

HARPREET BAJWA & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Chandigarh/New Delhi

HINTING at sweeping organisational changes within the BJP, national president Nitin Nabin on Thursday announced new presidents for the party units in Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, and Tripura, signalling a generational transition as the party prepares for crucial electoral contests and a possible reshuffle in the Union Cabinet.

The Punjab appointment has drawn particular political attention ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. BJP named former Congress leader Sardar Kewal Singh Dhillon as the new Punjab president, replacing Sunil Jakhar. Party insiders believe Dhillon, regarded as a strong Sikh face, could help the BJP expand its appeal among sections currently aligned with the Aam Aadmi Party and widen its footprint in a politically crucial border state.

In Punjab, BJP's strategy appears similar to its Assam model, where it successfully relied on influential defectors from Congress. After Bengal, Punjab is increasingly being viewed as one of BJP's top electoral orities. The leadership believes Dhillon symbolises what BJP and RSS stand for nationally. However, Dhillon is a Congress defector, having served as a two-time Congress MLA from Barnala before joining BJP in 2022.

Dhillon was earlier appointed vice-president of the Punjab unit. His elevation has also fuelled speculation that outgoing chief Sunil Jakhar could be accommodated in the Union Cabinet during the anticipated reshuffle. Dhillon is expected to help the party make inroads into AAP's core support base in the next Assembly elections.

Among the other key appointments, Union Minister Harsh Malhotra has been named the new Delhi BJP president, replacing Virendra Sachdeva, whose tenure ended earlier this year. Malhotra's elevation has intensified speculation about a broader Cabinet reorganisation expected after June 7, when the Modi government completes 12 years in office, and ahead of the June 10 meeting of NDA chief ministers and deputy CMs.

Considered an experienced organisational strategist with strong links to the RSS, Malhotra currently serves as Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport and Highways. A former Delhi BJP general secretary, he is known for his understanding of civic administration and municipal affairs.

In Haryana, BJP appointed Dr Archana Gupta as state president, making her only the second woman to head the party in the state after veteran leader Kamla Verma.

A medical professional and former state general secretary, Gupta succeeds Mohan Lal Badoli. Her appointment is being viewed as part of the BJP's continuing emphasis on and "Nari Shakti" politics. She is also considered close to former Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

Kewal Singh Dhillon, Archana Gupta and Abhishek Debroy

Only 1 of 4 new state chiefs above 60 years of age

BJP also appointed Abhishek Debroy, MLA from Matabari, as the new Tripura BJP president with immediate effect. Of the four new state chiefs, only Malhotra is above 60 years of age, reinforcing BJP's intention to promote younger leadership while retaining experienced administrators in strategically important positions.

Cong rules out rift with TVK as Vijay misses meeting with Sonia & Rahul

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS on Thursday dismissed speculation of a rift with its Tamil Nadu ally, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), after the postponement of a scheduled meeting between Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and senior leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in the capital.

While Vijay, who was on a two-day visit to Delhi, was expected to meet Rahul and Sonia Gandhi at 10 a.m., the meeting was postponed late Wednesday night, with the Congress saying it had been deferred due to the leadership's tight schedule.

Incidentally, during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday, Vijay raised the Mekedatu dam issue involving neighbouring Congress-ruled Karnataka. The Chief Minister also expressed concern over Karnataka's announcement of a groundbreaking ceremony for the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project across the Cauvery River, saying the move was against the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court verdict.

There is no complication or disagreement. Rahul Gandhi was among the first leaders to warmly support CM Vijay during his swearing-in ceremony. There is absolutely nothing negative to speculate about

Christopher Tilak, TN Congress MP

However, Tamil Nadu Congress MP Christopher Tilak dismissed speculation about differences between the partners. "We are coalition partners and part of the government. There is no complication or disagreement. Rahul Gandhi was among the first leaders to warmly support CM Vijay during his swearing-in ceremony. There is absolutely nothing negative to speculate about," he told reporters in Delhi.

He explained the reasons for the last-minute change in plans. "Leaders from Karnataka arrived today, and discussions regarding Rajya Sabha seats from Jharkhand have been underway for the past two days. Since the leadership is engaged in these pressing matters, a meeting with the CM was not possible at this juncture," he said.

Tilak said the CM had decided to keep the current visit strictly official and would meet Congress leaders during his next month's visit. The meet has only been postponed, not cancelled, he added. "The CM met PM Modi and left. He is expected to visit New Delhi again on June 11 for the NITI Aayog meeting, and I think he would meet our leaders Rahul and Sonia Gandhi, then," Tilak said.

Rahul, Pradhan trade charges over CBSE Class XII results controversy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A war of words broke out between Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday over the CBSE Class XII results row, with Pradhan accusing Gandhi of politicising the issue and being frustrated. Gandhi, on the other hand, asserted that attacking him would not absolve the minister of his "crimes".

Pradhan's response came after Gandhi alleged irregularities in the CBSE examination evaluation system, particularly its on-screen marking (OSM) module, which many students have alleged has negatively impacted their final result. Gandhi demanded an independent judicial probe and constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the truth behind the "entire scam". He also alleged that a company COEMPT, with "dubious past in Telangana", was handed the contract by the CBSE for digital evaluation of answer books for Class XII examination.

Attacking Gandhi, Pradhan said the Congress leader appeared "frustrated" due to continuous electoral setbacks. "As far as Rahul Gandhi is concerned, he seems to have reached a different state of mind. Due to continuous electoral defeats, he appears frustrated. He opposed the SIR, EVMs, and he was against Digital India. He does not seem to stand with India's scientific progress," said the minister.

Pradhan emphasised that the CBSE's actions align with the Government of India's procurement policy and assured that if any irregularities are discovered, action will be taken against those responsible. "As far as this issue is concerned, I take responsibility on behalf of the government for any inconvenience, and I request everyone that this is not the time for politics. I have said this earlier as well. Politics can be done later," he said.

Hitting back, Gandhi said, "Dharmendra Pradhan ji, you can attack me all you want, but it won't absolve you of your crimes. Nor will it stop me from demanding answers for 18.5 lakh children." Posing a series of questions on X, Gandhi asked why the contract for the OSM module was handed to COEMPT, "a company already mired in controversy under its old name, Globarena?". He asked, "On whose orders was it done? Why were no background checks done? What is the connection between COEMPT's management and government?"

Gandhi said that if PM Modi truly cared about the situation, he should have sacked Pradhan long ago for ruining the futures of lakhs of students.

WAR OF WORDS

1. Gandhi demands Pradhan's sacking for on-screen marking system of CBSE
2. Class XII students blame OSM module for low score
3. Pradhan claims Gandhi habitually attacks all tech initiatives of government

WFI moves SC against HC order on Phogat

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has moved the Supreme Court, challenging the Delhi High Court's order allowing celebrated wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games 2026.

The two-judge bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe is scheduled to hear the plea on Friday. On May 22, a division bench of the HC—led by Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia—had allowed Phogat to participate in upcoming Asian Games selection trials, observing that WFI's selection policy was exclusionary because it lacked discretion to accommodate an iconic player returning from maternity break.

The HC said Phogat, seeking to return after maternity leave, could not satisfy the WFI's "exclusionary" selection policy solely because she had been on maternity leave. It observed that Phogat, an "internationally acclaimed athlete", had brought several laurels to the country.

"It is acknowledged that motherhood cannot be treated as a professional impediment or a circumstance warranting adverse treatment. A legal and regulatory framework that either expressly or impliedly disadvantages a woman on account of pregnancy or post-partum recovery would clearly violate the principles of non-discrimination," the bench said in its May 22 order.

In its verdict, the HC said that "becoming a mother can never become a disability".

The high court also criticised the WFI for issuing a "deplorable" show-cause notice to Phogat, accusing her of causing "national embarrassment" after her disqualification from the 2024 Summer Olympics for being overweight ahead of her gold medal bout. The bench termed the WFI's action "vindictive".

Two death row convicts in rape-murder case acquitted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has acquitted two men sentenced to death by the Uttarakhand trial court and High Court for the alleged rape and murder of a 55-year-old woman in Uttarakhand on the grounds that the prosecution failed to establish a complete and reliable chain of circumstances connecting them with the crime.

"The FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) report merely records the presence of semen traces in the vaginal swab collected during the post-mortem examination and does not, in the absence of any corroborative material, establish the appellants' (Convicts) complicity in the alleged offence," said a three-judge Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and Vijay Bishnoi.

Setting aside the judgments of the trial court and the HC, the SC said: "No DNA examination or scientific profiling was undertaken to establish the identity of the source of semen or to connect the same with either of the appellants".

The court said the prosecution also failed to lead any evidence regarding the probable age or duration of the semen traces detected in the vaginal swab. "In the absence of such scientific evidence, no definite inference could be drawn that the deceased-victim had been subjected to the appeals filed by the murder convicts," it said. The judgment stated the prosecution's case was marred by serious infirmities as regards DNA examination or scientific profiling linking the biological evidence with the accused persons.

The prosecution in the trial court and HC sought to establish the guilt primarily through two circumstances, the "last seen" theory and alleged recoveries made during the investigation. The top court eventually discarded these versions and acquitted the two accused.

MURDERED
Four members of a family, including a former sarpanch, his mother and second wife, were allegedly murdered and their bodies were set ablaze inside a Scorpio near Ajmer on Thursday.

1 BOY DROWNS IN THANE'S ULHAS RIVER

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	30	Mumbai	34	31
Bhopal	41	27	Panaji	33	28
Jaipur	39	24	Patna	31	26
Amritsar	38	26	Lucknow	33	25
Chennai	37	29	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	33	26	Imphal	31	22
Srinagar	26	12	Chandigarh	36	24

Home minister says BJP has kept promise on safeguarding border with B'desh ● CM says move meant for new outposts to check influx

Infiltrators are leaving on their own, says Shah

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

UNION Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah used a major development event in Gujarat to combine infrastructure announcements with a strong political message on West Bengal, illegal infiltration and demographic change. Addressing a gathering in Gandhinagar North after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for projects worth nearly ₹340 crore, Shah said the BJP had taken Gujarat's development model across the country and claimed infiltration from Bangladesh had reduced after political changes in Bengal.

Shah then focused on West Bengal and illegal infiltration from Bangladesh, an issue repeatedly raised by BJP in eastern India. Referring to promises made during elections, he said the government had acted quickly to improve border security after assuming power.

"We had promised during the elections that border fencing would begin if people trusted us with governance," Shah said. "Within seven days, 600 hectares of land were handed over to the BSF, while 121 hectares in the strategically important Chicken Neck region were also transferred to the Government of India."

Sharpening his attack on the Trinamool Congress government, Shah alleged that infiltration had reduced sharply after political changes in Bengal. "Earlier, infiltration used to happen every single day during Mamata Banerjee's rule," he said. "Now infiltrators have started leaving the country on their own."

Amit Shah with Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar on Thursday | PTI

'BJP has expanded rapidly across India in 12 years'

Moving from local development to national politics, Shah claimed the BJP had expanded rapidly across India during the last twelve years by promoting Modi's governance model. "The development journey that began in Gujarat has now reached from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gangasagar to Somnath," he said.

Shah also announced that the Centre would form a high-powered Demographic Change Commission to study what he described as "artificial demographic changes" and suggest policy or legal measures. He said the panel would examine the reasons behind demographic imbalance and submit its report within one year.

Calling the Gndhinagar event part of a larger national vision, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach to development focused on improving villages and ensuring citizens lived with dignity.

"The Prime Minister's vision is clear. Every village should become self-reliant, every village should have every basic facility, and every citizen should have the right to live a better life," Shah said.

Shah also invoked freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on his birth anniversary, describing him as a fierce patriot, whom "the country itself honoured as Veer Savarkar".

Jolt to TMC as Kakoli, Kalyan spat intensifies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

FORMER TMC Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar on Thursday approached Speaker Om Birla with a complaint against Kalyan Banerjee, accusing him of verbally abusing her in Parliament.

The complaint of the four-time MP from Barasat in North 24-Parganas against her Sreerampore counterpart came as a big embarrassment for the party, which is reeling under severe organisational crisis, particularly after suffering a disastrous defeat to the BJP in the recent assembly elections.

"I seek your permission to lodge a formal complaint to you for redressal against LS Member of TMC Kalyan Banerjee, who has repeatedly verbally abused me inside the Lok Sabha," Kakoli alleged in her letter to the Speaker. The Barasat MP said, "This misogyny has been against many lady members and needs to be punished".

Kalyan, a senior advocate, raised questions about the timing of the complaint saying that as per the rule, such incident must immediately be reported. He said "It seems that they are acting with a motive".

Suvendu govt transfers 142.79 acres of land to BSF for border fencing

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE West Bengal government has handed over 142.79 acres of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) so far for setting up outposts and barbed-wire fencing infrastructure along the India-Bangladesh border. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari made an announcement about the transfer in a social media post on Wednesday, giving district-wise breakups on the transfer of land to the paramilitary force along the border.

The government has transferred the highest area of 35.165 acres to the BSF in Murshidabad—which is considered a highly vulnerable border district to infiltration attempts from the Bangladesh side—while in the Jalpaiguri, 35.165 acres have been transferred. In Cooch Behar and South Dinajpur districts, the land transferred includes 22.95 acres and 20.17 acres respectively. In Malda, the land area transferred stands at 10.9 acres.

"Govt of WB has initiated intensified measures to strengthen border security by facilitating construction of BSF outposts and barbed-wire fencing, further enhancing security in the border areas. Additional land has now been handed over to BSF, taking the total tally to 142.79 acres," Adhikari claimed in the social media post.

The BJP government, in its first cabinet meeting held on May 11, had decided to kickstart the process of handing over 600 acres of land to the BSF within 45 days for border fencing and other infrastructure works. Adhikari had announced the transfer of a 27-km stretch to the BSF on May 20 for the long-pending fencing projects along the border. He had also announced then that infiltrators would be arrested by the police and handed over to the BSF directly instead of producing them in the court.

Adhikari had said then that the Centre had sent a directive to the then TMC government to directly handover illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators to the BSF. But, he claimed, the Mamata Banerjee government did not implement the directive. "However, we did it after coming to the power for the first time in the state," he had added.

LUCKNOW DIARY

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Tej Pratap now Yogi fan, says BJP to win yet again

Tej Pratap Yadav, the elder son of Lalu Prasad Yadav, has turned into a big fan of UP CM Yogi Adityanath. During a recent visit to Mirzapur, he publicly said that Yogi would score a hat-trick in the forthcoming polls. "BJP will return to power in UP," he said. He didn't stop there. The former Bihar minister, who was in the news during the recent Bihar polls for opposing his own family, also said that 'I do not support Akhilesh'. Tej Pratap's video call with the SP chief had gone viral during the polls. He fielded his own candidates on several seats under the banner of Janshakti Janta Dal, but Akhilesh supported RJD, led by Tejashwi, the younger brother of Tej Pratap.

Pradhans turn admins for villages for 6 months

UP CM Yogi Adityanath has signed an order to make all village pradhans the administrators of their panchayats for the next six months. The decision was taken as the tenure of 57,000 village pradhans was ending this month and elections are yet to be scheduled. With the caste survey to fix reservations just starting and UP assembly polls just nine months away, it's unlikely that the panchayat polls would be held soon. Earlier, when panchayat elections could not be conducted before the completion of the tenure, government officials such as Assistant Development Officers or Block Development Officers were appointed as administrators.

Bahubali neta becomes preacher of Sanatan

UP's Bahubali neta Raghuraj Pratap Singh turned a religious preacher at a recent discourse in Prayagraj. "All Muslims today were Hindus in the past. They did not come from Arabia. Those who were faithless and meek converted from their religion. The brave ones and sacrificing people remained steadfast in their religion, Sanatan," he said. He went on to say that if Sanatan becomes weak, the Constitution will be in danger. In an indirect reference to the India bloc, he said, "Many people must have been seen saying, "Jai Samvidhan" (Hail Constitution).' But let us tell you, the day India ceases to be Hindu-majority, they will tear up the Constitution and throw it away."

Cyber fraudsters target Kedarnath pilgrims, busted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

AS the Char Dham Yatra surpasses the 25-lakh pilgrim mark—with Kedarnath alone witnessing a record 10 lakh visitors—the Rudraprayag Police launched an aggressive campaign to safeguard devotees from a surge in cybercrime.

With cybercriminals exploiting the high demand for helicopter tickets, authorities formed a specialised "Cyber Combat Force". This unit launched a massive digital cleanup, blocking 347 fake Facebook pages, 19 Instagram accounts, 30 websites, and 189 WhatsApp or mobile numbers linked to fraudulent booking schemes.

Rudraprayag SP Neeharika Tomar said, "We have received 48 complaints regarding helicopter booking scams. We have placed holds on 118 bank accounts used by these gangs to freeze illicit transactions." The police intervention has yielded tangible results. "We have recovered and refunded ₹1,12,968 to the victims," Tomar added.

So far, the district police have registered three cases in Kotwali Guptkashi and Sonprayag, leading to two arrests. The district has received 229 cyber-related complaints this year, with 144 under investigation.

4 killed, 3 missing as boat capsizes in Ganga due to strong winds in Bihar dist

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

FOUR people drowned and three went missing on Thursday when a boat capsized in the Ganga river near Sultanpur Diyara in Bihar's Samastipur district. All four bodies have been recovered.

According to Patna district administration, the incident took place around 5.45 am when residents of Bind Toli in Patna were returning from work on northern side of the river under Mohiuddinnagar police station limits in Samastipur district. The group had travelled to Sultanpur Diara for harvesting pointed gourd and other farm-related work, a routine practice for many members of the Bindi community.

Patna district magistrate Dr Thiyagarajan S M said that 14 people from Bind Toli near Umanath Ghat under Barh subdivision boarded a country boat and headed to Sultanpur Diyara under Mohiuddin Nagar area. People often go there to pick pointed gourds and for other farming activities.

On their way back, the boat capsized near Sultanpur Diyara due to strong wind. Rescue teams saved seven people from

Members of an NDRF team take out bodies in Bihar on Thursday | EXPRESS

drowning. The bodies of four people have been recovered. All of the rescued individuals have been sent to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

An SDRF team was deployed to conduct rescue operations to trace remaining four missing people. The Samastipur district administration as well as the Patna district administration coordinated with each other to conduct the rescue operation.

Three of the deceased have been identified as Neelam Kumari (30), Shravan Mahto (36), and his son, Kashi Kumar (15). The injured are Rahul Kumar, Mamta Devi, Kabutari Kumari, and a 16-year-old minor, while the identities of the remaining three injured individuals have not yet been established.

Fadnavis meets Modi to flag Maha plight of onion farmers

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday in New Delhi and discussed issues related to the state's development, infrastructure projects and ongoing welfare initiatives.

Sharing the details of the meeting on X, Fadnavis wrote, "Called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Sought his guidance on various subjects pertaining to Maharashtra's development. I also briefed him on the progress and status of many works and projects of Maharashtra." He described the interaction as encouraging and said a meeting the prime minister always brings "positive energy".

Fadnavis did not reveal specific details about the projects discussed during the meeting, but he was seen holding a thick file when he met Modi.

In a separate meeting, Fadnavis met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who also holds the charge of the Ministry of Cooperation, and Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan along with his deputies Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar and other state leaders. The Maharashtra leaders discussed onion and sugar prices with the Union ministers. Maharashtra is facing protests from onion and sugarcane farmers, as prices of the two commodities have crashed. The onion farmers are demanding a relief package.

Devendra Fadnavis with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on Thursday | EXPRESS

After the meeting, Fadnavis said it was a positive meeting, and they discussed increasing the minimum support price (MSP). The chief minister said that the Union agriculture minister acknowledged that there was a need to increase the MSP of sugarcane besides expanding ethanol quotas in the next two months and restructuring loans for the sugar industry.

Fadnavis said that the Centre has sought a proposal regarding ethanol production. "The Central government has asked the state government to submit the proposal, and that will be done soon. This will resolve sugarcane farmers' issue," the chief minister said.

On the concerns for onion farmers, Fadnavis said that his government has requested NAFED to increase onion procurement from the current figure of two lakh tonnes to 10 lakh tonnes. "The government procurement agencies should buy onion directly from farmers, not from the traders," he said. The CM also said that the state leaders discussed with the Central leaders the need to raise procurement prices of onion further to stabilise rates and give relief to farmers.

4 cubs dead, 17 lions isolated amid infection scare

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

AFTER four Asiatic lion cubs died due to suspected infection in Gujarat's Gir forest, 17 lions have been isolated under intensive monitoring. The forest teams have also launched a massive surveillance and disease-control operation across Gir, Amreli and Bhavnagar to prevent any possible spread.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel convened a review meeting in Gandhinagar on Wednesday, where senior forest officials presented a detailed ground report on the sudden cub deaths and the rapid containment measures being rolled out across the Gir ecosystem.

According to officials, the four cubs died in separate incidents reported from different pockets of the Gir landscape, a development that immediately triggered intensified medical surveillance inside the forest. What followed was a swift and aggressive response from the Forest Department, which moved to isolate 17 lions from sensitive zones and place them under intensive veterinary observation.

Authorities said special monitoring teams have now been deployed across the Gir, Gadhada and Babaria regions, with a sharp focus on lions located within a 10-km radius of the affected areas. Forest officials stressed that, so far, no fresh symptoms of infection have been detected among the monitored animals, but surveillance has been tightened to rule out any hidden spread.

The operation, however, is no longer limited to just Gir. Wildlife health checks have now expanded deep into Amreli and Bhavnagar districts, where veterinary teams are conducting continuous medical screening, behavioural monitoring and early disease-detection exercises on lions roaming across the wider Asiatic lion habitat. In a preventive crackdown, forest teams have already carried out large-scale de-ticking operations on more than 350 lions across the Gir landscape.

J'khand on high alert amid B'desh Ebola outbreak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ranchi

WITH Bangladesh facing a deadly Ebola outbreak that has already killed over 500 children, the Jharkhand health department has been put on high alert and has increased health surveillance, particularly in the districts falling under the Santhal Pargana division. Health Minister Irfan Ansari has directed RIMS and the Sadar Hospital in Ranchi to remain prepared for the treatment of Ebola.

Ansari stated that a review meeting was held to address the matter. The hospital has been instructed to keep a certain number of beds vacant so that treatment can be started as soon as any suspected case of Ebola arrives.

1st Kuki village in Manipur resettled after return of displaced persons

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

KHODANG, a Kuki village in Manipur's Churachandpur district, was resettled on Thursday, exactly three years after the displacement of the locals during the ethnic violence which erupted on May 3, 2023. MLA Paolienlal Haokip inaugurated the village for habitation by cutting a ribbon. This is the first Kuki village in Churachandpur district to be resettled, locals said.

Khodang is located near the buffer zone, bordering Churachandpur, Kakching and Bishnupur districts. While Churachandpur is a Kuki-majority district, Kakching and Bishnupur are Meitei-majority districts. During the height of violence, Khodang came under an attack when a majority of the houses were burned down. The locals fled the village and

A settlement in Khodang | EXPRESS

took refuge in a relief camp in Churachandpur town. "Around 180 to 200 people from 45 families lived in the village. We rebuilt our houses with ₹1.7 lakh allocated to each family by the Centre," M Sonsei Haokip, Khodang village secretary, said.

Only the male members of a few families occupied their houses on Thursday. Others, including women and children, would move in gradually. The ethnic violence had left over 250 people dead and an estimated 60,000 others internally displaced.

Meanwhile, during a visit to Kangpokpi district on Thursday, the CM said investigations were underway to nab those involved in the abduction of six Naga villagers. On May 13, three church leaders from the Thadou community were killed in an ambush in the Kangpokpi district. Later that day, different groups abducted "more than 38" Kuki and Naga individuals from different places.

Two days later, 14 Nagas and 14 Kukis were released by their captors. Naga organisations said six more Nagas were held captive by Kuki groups. Similarly, Kuki organisations said there was no trace of 14 more Kukis after they were abducted.

$80 million additional aid announced by the United States will help combat Ebola in Congo and Uganda

Tentative US-Iran deal to extend truce

Trump yet to approve framework deal; US calls Kuwait attack a 'ceasefire violation' as Iran cites retaliation for strikes

DUBAI

US and Iranian negotiators have reached a tentative agreement to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and launch talks on Iran's nuclear programme, according to a US official familiar with the matter.

President Donald Trump still has to approve the proposed memorandum of understanding. The tentative deal comes as the fragile truce appeared increasingly shaky after the US military accused Iran of violating the ceasefire following attacks reported by Kuwait.

US Central Command said Kuwait intercepted missiles fired from Iran late Wednesday and called the attack an "egregious ceasefire violation."

Iran said it retaliated after recent American strikes around Bandar Abbas and the Strait of Hormuz.

Toll threat escalates

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned Oman against helping impose a tolling system in the Strait of Hormuz, threatening sanctions against parties involved. Washington sanctioned Iran's new Persian Gulf Strait Authority, which collects transit fees through the key waterway. The United States also warned companies paying the fees could face sanctions because of links to Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Trump earlier appeared to threaten Oman over any arrangement involving the Hormuz. The latest tensions followed renewed exchanges of fire between Washington and Tehran despite ongoing ceasefire negotiations.

WAR WATCH

Shipping traffic recovers

More non-Iranian vessels are again transiting the Strait of Hormuz despite Iran's blockade, according to Lloyd's List Intelligence. Tankers from Singapore, China, South Korea and Norway have resumed crossings in recent weeks. Several very large crude carriers have also exited the Gulf this month, many heading toward China, India and South Korea.

Analysts said China, India, Japan and South Korea coordinated with Tehran for safer passage, while Iranian forces reportedly fired at four unauthorised vessels in the strait.

The renewed movement through Hormuz comes despite soaring energy prices and uncertainty over whether the ceasefire will hold. Maritime analysts warned that any sanctions, attacks or disputes over transit fees could sharply reduce shipping traffic and further disrupt oil and fertiliser markets.

AP

QuoteExpress WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS › GORDON B HINCKLEY

Blaze rips through girls dorm, kills 16 students in Kenya

GILGIL: A fire ripped through a dormitory in a girls' boarding school in central Kenya on Thursday, killing at least 16 students, a government official said, in the latest such incident to afflict the East African nation. Education Minister Julius Ogamba said Thursday that 79 others were injured at the Utumishi Girls School, which has more than 800 students in the Gilgil area of central Kenya. Ogamba said authorities would investigate whether the school's fire safety manual had been adhered to. Police said they were leading the rescue and emergency response efforts at the school, which is located about 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the capital, Nairobi. The government-owned secondary school is managed and sponsored by the Kenya Police Service. Many of the students are the daughters of police officers. The victims have not yet been identified, a source of anger and frustration for some of the parents who gathered at the scene. Dozens were still waiting to confirm their children were not among the victims of the fire. Elizabeth Rioba, mother of two girls at the school, said one daughter saw her friend get stuck while trying to jump from a window. "She's traumatised, but I'm relieved she's safe and saddened by the deaths," she told AP. The cause of the fire remains unclear. Wambui Nderitu arrived to check on her cousin at the school. "Even though my cousin escaped with a leg injury, we've been told many children are injured and some died," she said. The Kenya Red Cross said several students were evacuated and are receiving treatment in various hospitals. The group said it deployed "tracing and psychosocial support teams to support affected students and families." "No words can truly ease the pain of losing young lives filled with promise, hope, and dreams for the future," President William Ruto said in a statement. "As a nation, we mourn with the parents, guardians, teachers, and fellow students who are enduring this unimaginable tragedy." AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that my Client **Mr. Savinder Singh** has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Mr. Arjun. M. B and Mrs. Nandini. L. N** which is free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned his Counsel Mr.RADESH.K, Office at Third Floor, Above Favara Car World, SMN Complex, Whitefield Main Road, Thubarahalli, Bangalore. within 7 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Plot No: 56**, Panchayath Records Property No: 177/56, **E-Khata No: 150200101601720868,** measuring East to West: **12.19 Meters** and North to South: **(10.22+9.99)/2 Meters,** totally measuring **123.24 Square Meters** or **1326 Square Feet** in the Project known as **"36 PARK AVENUE",** formed in Sy No: 64/2, Situated at Chikkadasarahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded as follows:- East by : 9 M Wide Road; West by : Site No: 61; North by : Site No: 65; and South by : Site No: 55.

Contact : **Mr. RADESH, BE,** LL.B, LL.M
Director- MKM Legal Solutions Pvt Ltd.
e-mail id: radesh@mkmlegalsolutions.com
Contact No: +91 8884141400

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby given notice that my client intends to purchase the SCHEDULE PROPERTY from its present owner **Sri. Ashvini Ranjan,** son of late Sri. TAS Ranjan, resident of No. 31, 6th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmi Puram, Mysuru -570012

Sri. Ashvini Ranjan has represented to my client that the original Sale Deed dated 24.12.1999, registered as document No.3322/1999-2000 of Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore (U) District in respect of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY has been lost and that a complaint has been lodged in this regard in C.Misc.no.277/2011, dated 29.03.2011 in Vijay Nagar Police Station, Mysore.

In the event any one has any objection and/or claim over the SCHEDULE PROPERTY they may file the same with documentary proof before the under signed within seven days from the date of this notice failing which, the claim/s if any, of such person/s will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the transfer shall be completed.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential Apartment bearing no.003 in Ground Floor, BBMP PID No. 78-1-122/1-2 having a Super Built-Up Area of 1516 square feet together with a car parking space in the Basement of the multi-storeyed building known as FARAH PLAZA, property no. 122/1, Infantry Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore together with 884.21 square feet undivided share, right, title and interest in the property no. 122/1, Infantry Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore and bounded on the:

EAST BY : Property No. 122 Infantry Road and Property No. 31/1 Cubbon Road
WEST BY : Property No. 123 Infantry Road and Property in Cubbon Road belonging to Sri. M.S. Ramesh and Sri. M.R. Jayaram
NORTH BY : Property No. 122/3, Infantry Road and common passage leading to Infantry Road
SOUTH BY : Cubbon Road Cross

BANGALORE DATE : 28.05.2026

ADARSH GANGAL, Advocate,
No. 401, Fourth Floor, Kalpak Arcade, 46/27, Church Street, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru - 560001 Mob : 9448485550

CCH-12 HG: 01/07/2026

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE XVI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU

P & SC No. 189/2026

Petitioners : 1. Sri. M. Purushothaman, S/o. Late N. Muniswamy, **2. Sri. Munish P,** S/o. Sri. M. Purushothaman, No. 1 & 2 are r/at: Flat No. D310, Sruthika Springfield Apartment, Singapura Main Road, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560 097.
And also r/at: #471, 6th Cross, 2nd Block, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.
3. Smt. Punitha P, W/o. Sri. Himakar Prakash, D/o. Sri. M. Purushothaman, R/at: Flat No.405, Block No. B, Vertex Prime, Nizampet Road, High Tension Line Road, Kukatpally, Hyderabad - 500 072. **And is also** the resident of #471, 6th Cross, 2nd Block, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032.

V/s.

Respondent/s : NIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named, filed this petition under Section 276 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Probate Certificate in favour of the Petitioner No. 2, in respect of petition schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by N. Muniswamy father of Petitioner No. 1 and grandfather of Petitioners No.2 & 3 herein who expired on 07/01/2014.

Interested parties are hereby called upon the appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 01/07/2026 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the schedule site bearing No.471, 2nd Block, 6th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Matadahalli, Bangalore - 560032 measuring, East to West 13.72 meters i.e., 45 ft., and North to South 9.14 meters i.e., 30 ft., in all measuring about 1,350 sq.ft. with an old building of about 960 sq.ft. having red oxide flooring and jungle wood and is bounded on:-

East by : Road, West by : Site No. 486, North by : Site No. 470, South by : Site No. 472.

Given under my hand & seal of the court, this 4th day of May 2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Address for Service
K.S. CHANDRAHASA, Advocate
No. 323, (Sri Ranga Nilaya), Opp. B.D.A. Complex, 3rd Main, 1st Block, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560 032. Mobile: +91 9448055458
E-mail : kschandrahasa@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that, **Sri. Jagadeesh.K,** S/o Sri. Kenchalingaiah, Residing at No.47, Junjappa Temple Street, Near Country Club Sunvalley, Gollarahatti, Bengaluru - 560091, has agreed to sell the Schedule Property in favour of my client **Smt. Sumithramma.S,** W/o Sri. Sridhar, Residing at No.54/9, 7th Cross, Srigandhadakavalu, Kottigepalya, Bengaluru North - 560091, in this regard Sri.Jagadeesh K has executed Agreement of Sale dated 13.05.2026, is registered as Document No.NGB-1-00875-2026-27, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru, that any person/s, individual, institution, authorities, having any objections for the execution of the sale deed or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the schedule property is hereby called upon to file their objections/ claims whatsoever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate with documentary proof, failing which, my client shall proceed to purchase schedule property and complete the sale transaction by entering into an Absolute Sale Deed in respect of the schedule property with the above stated person. My client shall not be liable or answerable for any claim put after the expiry of the aforesaid period.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Vacant Site No.61,** Municipal No.61/40/61, **E-PID No.8504434635,** situated at **Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, 2nd Block Extension, Bengaluru,** being a layout formed by the Bengaluru Development Authority, measuring East to West 9.10 Meters and North to South 6.10 Meters, in all measuring 55.51 Square Meters, and bounded on :-

East by : Site No.102; West by : Road; North by : Site No.60; South by : Site No.62.

C.A. AJITH, Advocate
Ajith Law Chambers
No.263, 7th Cross, Near Buddha Theme Park, Shree Chamundeshwari Temple Road, Nagaravabhi 2nd Stage 3rd Block,
Bengaluru - 72. **Ph: 9900944007**
E-mail : ca.ajith.adv@gmail.com
Bangalore, Date: 27/05/2026

TOUCH THE STORY. IT WILL TOUCH YOU!!!
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DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-I)

4th Floor, Telephone House
Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001

Original Application No.645/2024

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** Represented by its Chief Manager, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, (SARB), Mr. Nagendra N, J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No. AAACS8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN0005173, Mobile No. 9448686183 **...Applicant**

AND

Mr. Naveen Kumar Vommivasu & Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No.2 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To :

2. M/s. Kingston Ventures India Pvt Ltd., Represented by its Managing Director Mr. A. Jyotheesswar, Having Office at No. 28, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, EWS Layout, 2nd Block, J.P. Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore - 560 076. **....Defendant No. 2**

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.80,40,995/-** (Rupees Eighty Lakhs Forty Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Only)

The above mentioned Defendant is directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **07.07.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **08.12.2025** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 , Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of acquiring all that piece and parcel of residential vacant property bearing Municipal No. 319/305, situated at 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Ward No. 101-Kamakshipalya, Bangalore (**ePID No. 18-3-3051607813392)** more fully set out in the schedule below and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property",** from its present owner, Jyotika Deepak Shenoy wife of Deepak Shenoy residing at Radhika Apartment, Twincity CHS, plot No.31, Flat No – A-702, Sector 17, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Maharashtra - 400703.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such transaction in favor of our clients should write to the undersigned within fifteen **(15) days** of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant property bearing Municipal No. 319/305 (Previously BDA Site No. 305, 4th Block, 3rd Stage, West of Cord Road Layout), situated at 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Ward No. 101-Kamakshipalya, Bangalore **(ePID No. 18-3-3051607813392)** measuring East to West 80 Feet and North to South 50 Feet, in all measuring 4000 square feet and bounded as follows:- Property No. 305 **East by:** Property bearing No. 320 **West by:** Road **North by:** Property bearing No. 304 **South by:** Property bearing No. 306

Sd/- (R.Sunitha) Advocate
CMS INDUSLAW
101, First Floor "Embassy Classic"
No.11, Vittal Mallya Road
Bangalore-560001. **Ph: 080-40726600**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

ELECTRICAL BRANCH (GENERAL SERVICES) CHENNAI DIVISION

Tender Notice ME29IISC-Electrowaves2026

The Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, General Services, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, IVth Floor, NGO Annex, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Open Tenders for the E-Tender no. ME29IISC-Electrowaves2026 for the following work as per the Tender Notice issued in our E-Tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The bidders intending to apply for E-Tender for Works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the aforesaid E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted.

E-TENDER NO	ME29IISC-Electrowaves2026 dt. 25.05.2026
NAME OF THE WORK	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for maintenance of out of warranty Electrowaves (M/s. Electrowaves Electronics Pvt. Ltd.) make 25KVA inverters fitted in Roof Mounted AC coaches of Southern Railway for a period of three years
APPROXIMATE COST OF WORK	Rs. 2,70,58,500/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand and Five Hundred Only.)
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	Rs. 2,85,300/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Five Thousand and Three Hundred only.)
CONTRACT PERIOD	Three Years
TENDER CLOSING DATE AND TIME	15.06.2026 and 16:30 Hrs

1. The details of the approximate cost of Tender value, EMD, and the details of bid submission are furnished in the aforesaid E-Portal.
2. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.
3. GST rules applicable from time to time will apply for this E-Tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, For and On Behalf of the President of India.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale Notice For Sale of immovable Assets Under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) / Mortgagor (s), that the below described immovable / property mortgaged / charged to the City Union Bank Ltd., Physical Possession of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of the City Union Bank Ltd.,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is"** and **"Without recourse basis"** on **22-06-2026** at **01.00 p.m.** for Recovery of **Rs.3,56,92,387/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Six Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty Seven only)** as on **24-05-2026**, together with further interest thereon from **25-05-2026** and Other Incidental Expenses, etc. due to the Secured Creditor from **No.1) M/s. Aravind Infracon India Private Limited, No.1208, 2nd Floor, 41st Cross, 26th Main, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore - 560092. No.2) Mr. J.V. Krishna Reddy, S/o. Lakshmi Reddy Janke, No.502, Sarvajit Heights Apartment, Gottigere, Bannerghata Road, Bangalore - 560083. No.3) Mrs. J. Padmaja Reddy, W/o. J.V. Krishna Reddy, No.502, Sarvajit Heights Apartment, Gottigere, Bannerghata Road, Bangalore - 560083.**

The Sale is proposed to be conducted through **"Swiss Challenge Method",** based on an existing offer from a prospective bidder who is designated as Anchor Bidder for the reserve price. Further bids are invited in challenging the Anchor Bidder with an incremental amount mentioned below. The Anchor Bidder/ (Original Offeror) does have a right to match the same. However, the challenging bidder does not have the second chance to re- challenge the Anchor Bidder. In case, if the original offeror (Anchor Bidder) fails to match the highest bid made by the challenging bidder, the property will be sold to the Challenging highest bidder.

Date of Inspection : 20-06-2026 (working days only) between 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.

Last Date for Submission of Bid & EMD : 22-06-2026 by 12.00 Noon

Place of Auction : City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-J P Nagar Branch, No.253, 16th Cross, 5th Phase, 24th Main, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural - 560078.

The Reserve Price will be **Rs.60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh only)**

The Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs.6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh only)**

Incremental Amount : Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only)

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - B : (Properties Owned by Mrs. J. Padmaja Reddy, W/o. J.V. Krishna Reddy)

Schedule - A : All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No. 121/1 present BBMP Khatha No.850/ 4464/1, 4444/21 duly converted for Non-Agricultural Residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)31/1997-98 dated 20-10-1997 and renewed Conversion Order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR3/2006-07 dated 13-02-2017, V.P.Khatha No. 4444-49 & 4464-67 situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. Measuring : East to West 145 ft. and North to South in the Western side 64 ft. and Eastern side 65 ft. and Bounded on : East by : Property in Sy. No. 122/1, West by : Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Property Nos. 20,15 & 3.

Schedule - B : All that residential flat bearing No. T1 in the terrace floor in the apartment building known as SARVAJIT HEIGHT having a super built up area of 2,800 Sq. ft. constructed on the Schedule A property and together with 900 Sq. ft. undivided Share, Right , Title and interest in the Schedule A property consisting of One living room, One dining hall, Three bed rooms, One meditation room, One Kitchen, Two toilets and bathrooms with all civic amenities like Water Sanitary, Electricity with Lift and Common Power back Generator facilities along with right to use, Car Parking No.T 1 area at Basement Floor and other amenities in the Schedule A - Property.

Details of Authorised Officer : Cell No. 9703676865. Email : crmd@cityunionbank.in

For Further Details Contact : 1) The Branch Manager, Bengaluru-J P Nagar Branch, **Cell Nos : 7483060907, 9341664360, 8925964904.** Email : cub236@cityunionbank.in 2) Authorised Officer : Cell No. 9703676865. Email: crmd@cityunionbank.in

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he /she is bidding for himself /herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-J P Nagar Branch, No.253, 16th Cross, 5th Phase, 24th Main, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural-560078.** (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact branch **Cell Nos.7483060907, 9341664360, 9703676865, 8925964904.** (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where- is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" "Without recourse" basis. (6) The bid price to be submitted shall be above the reserve price/ anchor bid and during the auction, bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and by minimum increase in the bid amount given in the table to the last higher bid of the bidders. The property will not be sold below the reserve price set by the Authorized Officer. The bid quoted below the reserve price shall be rejected. The bidders shall increase their bids in multiples of the amount specified in the public sale notice/Terms and condition of Sale. Unlimited extension of 10 Minutes time will be given in case of receipt of bid in last ten minutes. Ten minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of 10 minutes to the last highest bid, the auction shall be closed. (7) After conclusion of auction : ● The "Anchor Bidder" will be informed of the highest bid and shall have right to match the highest bid on the same day of the Auction after being informed by the Authorised officer about the highest bid. ● Once the "Anchor Bidder" matches the highest quote, the Anchor bidder shall be declared as successful bidder and he has to deposit 25% of the highest bid amount (inclusive of EMD) with the Bank on the same day or latest by the next day of the exercise of ROFR. In such an event the EMD submitted by other bidders will be returned forthwith. It is to be clarified that already deposited amount by the Anchor bidder would be considered towards 25% of the bid amount. ● In the event "Anchor bidder" does not wish to increase his offer by matching the highest bid, the highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder and he shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount (inclusive of EMD amount) as per the terms of notice, failing which the EMD deposited by him will be forfeited. ● In case the successful bidder fails to deposit the balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, the initial deposit made by the successful bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice. ● The successful bidder would bear the charges/ fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee, etc. & Taxes as applicable as per law. ● The Authorised Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues/ Taxes to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under Sale. ● The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason therefore. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues TDS,GST if any, due to Government, Government undertaking and local bodies. (10) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

For Detailed Terms & Conditions of the Auction Sale, Please refer to the link provided on City Union Bank Ltd., Website: https://www.cityunionbank.bank.in

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 27-05-2026 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur Dt., Tamil Nadu - 612001,
CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Ph. No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (II FL-H FL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) mad with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower dears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs. charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. Venkatesh Miss. Surakshitha Venkatesh Mrs. Lakshmamma (Prospect No IL10561220)	All that piece and parcel of 151/22/227/3/A, Thegachaguppe Post, Harisandra Post, Channapatana Tq Ramanagara, Channapatna, Govt School, Ramanagara, Karnataka, India, 562160 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_ Area Property Area: 1480.00, 625.00 Bounded By: North: Road South: Remaining Property East: Property Of Venkatesh West: Property Of Puttasiddamma	Rs.1062125/- Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five Only	09-01-2026	25-05-2026
Mr. Santosh Kumar Sahani Renu Sahani Enterprises Mrs. Renu Sahani (Prospect No IL10565022)	All that piece and parcel of Apartment No 2008 , Floor No. 20, B1, VBHC Haven of Joy, 25 ,28/1,28/2,29/4,29/6,29/7,29/9,29/10,29/11, 29/12,29/13,29/14,29/15,32/1A, Doddabele Village,-Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560060 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Saleable_Area Property Area: 354.03 , 540.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	Rs.2104580/- Rupees Twenty One Lakh Four Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Only	10-03-2026	25-05-2026

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office :** "Adam Chambers," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025 Land mark (near to Hyundai Showroom) **or Corporate Office :** IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

PLACE : BANGALORE | Date : 29.05.2026 **Sd/-, Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Limited**

THE KARNATAKA STATE CO-OPERATIVE APEX BANK LTD.

APEX

No.1, 'UTHUNGA', Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018.
Phone: 080-26983700, 26983722, 22976600 E-mail: recoverycell@karnatakaapex.bank.in

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE / MOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Whereas, the Bank has issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the Act, the **Authorised Officer, The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd, Bengaluru - 560018** has taken possession of the mortgaged and hypothecaped machinery properties including those more fully described hereunder, and the Bank has decided to sell the below mentioned property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act 2002, read with the relevant Rules 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Sl. No.	Details of the Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property and Boundaries & Measurement	Reserve Price and EMD Amount	Balance Outstanding Amount to be paid to Bank	Date & Time of Opening Tender & Place of Auction
1	**Borrowers:** **1) M/s. Shiv Shakti Sugar Mill (India) Pvt. Ltd.,** **having its Registered Office at:** No. 15-9-27, Mukthiyar Gunj, Hyderabad - 500012 (T.S.), **Factory at:** Bhangoor Village, Bidar Taluk & District - 585227, **Rep. by its Managing Director, Sri Sunil Kumar Agarwal,** **2) Sri Sunil Kumar Agarwal S/o. Late Ramanand Agarwal, Promoter, President & Managing Director of M/s. Shiv Shakti Sugar Mill (India) Pvt. Ltd.,** **3) Smt. Meenu Agarwal W/o. Sri Sunil Kumar Agarwal, Director, M/s. Shiv Shakti Sugar Mill (India) Pvt. Ltd.,** **Both 2 & 3 are residing at:** No.15-9-27, Mukthiyar Gunj, Hyderabad - 500 012, Telangana State. **4) Sri Tanish Agarwal S/o. Sri Sunil Kumar Agarwal, Director, M/s. Shiv Shakti Sugar Mill (India) Pvt. Ltd.,** No. 15-1-564, Siddiambar Bazar, Begum Bazar, Nampalli, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500012.	1) Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.97, measuring 4 Acres, 2 Guntas, situated at Bhangoor Village, Bidar Taluk and District and bounded on **East by :** Land belonging to Md Ismail Sindolkar, **West by :** Land belonging to Sangaramappa and Basavanappa Wali, **North by :** Land belonging to Vaijnath and Gaudappa Mali Patil, **South by :** Land in Sy.No. 99 of Bhangoor, belonging to Papayya Barber. 2) Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.99, measuring 3 Acres, 3 Guntas, situated at Bhangoor Village, Bidar Taluk and District and bounded on **East by :** Bhangoor Tank, **West by :** Land of Basavanappa Wali, **North by :** Land in Sy.No. 97 of Bhangoor belonging to Sri Veershetty, **South by :** Lands of Ramanna Kalbemalgi and Chand Khan & Others. 3) Item No.3: Hypothecation regarding Plant and Machinery Registered deed of hypothecation regarding plant and machinery dated 01.02.2019, registered on 03.06.2019, as Document No. BDR-4-00022-2019-20 of Book-IV stored in CD No.BDRD 320, before the Senior Sub-registrar, Bidar EXECUTED BY M/s. Shiv Shakti Sugar Mills (India) Pvt. Ltd., in favour of the KSC Apex Bank Ltd.,	**Rs.11,91,00,000/-** (Rupees Eleven Crore Ninety One Lakh Only) **EMD: Rs.1,19,10,000/-** (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakh Ten Thousand Only) (10% of the Reserve Price)	**Rs.20,59,55,340/-** (Rupees Twenty Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Only) **as on 26-05-2026**	**16-06-2026 at 11.30 AM No.1, "UTHUNGA", Pampa Mahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018**

The Description of the Hypothecated Machinery are narrated hereunder:-

Sl.No.	Machinery Details	Nos.	Use of Machinery
1	Cane Cutter along with 75 H.P. Electrical Motor	1 Set	For cutting of Sugar Cane.
2	Fibroizer, cutter and crusher along with 200 H.P. Electrical Motor	1 Set	For Extra Fine Preparation of Sugar Cane.
3	Cane Milling Section (Tandem) Mill Roller Size 24"x16" with carries motors totally number of rollers 20 along with 2 Nos. of 125 H.P. Motors and 1 No. of 40 H.P. Motor and 4 Nos. of 5 H.P. Motors and reduction gear boxes with inter carrier chain.	5 Nos.	For extraction of Sugar Cane Juice.
4	Sugar Cane Un-loader Crane with unloading platform with cane stock yard along with electrical motors.	1 Set	For Un-loading of sugarcane from lorries, carts and tractors.
5	Sugar Carrier i.e., from Crane to supply upto the mills	2 Set	For carrying sugar cane upto the Mills.
6	Control Electrical Panel Board with required capacity of starters switch gears and O.C.B's.	1 Set	Electrical Power Station for running of cutter, fibrozier and mills.
7	M.S. Tank on MS Foundation	2 Nos.	For water supply to the mills.
8	Sulphur Bhatties	3 Nos.	For passing sulphur dioxide gas in sugar cane for removing impurities from juice.
9	Sulphur Tank	4 Nos.	For filling raw sugar cane juice in these tanks for treatment of Sulphur Dioxide Gas.
10	MS Juice Heaters	3 Nos.	For Boiling of Sulphited juice upto 100° c.
11	Scrubbers	4 Nos.	For filtration of sulphur dioxide gas to supply to sulphur tanks.
12	Continuous Juice Clarifier	1	For settling of clear juice and muddy juice will be deposited below the tank.
13	Rotary Drum Vacuum Filtration Plant	1	The Juice will be separated from Mud through vacuum technology.
14	Hot Juice Pan evaporation and boiling Station 12T capacity	3 Nos.	For evaporation of clear and clarified juice.
15	Concentrators	3 Nos.	For further evaporation of juice 80° bricks.
16	Crystallizer	80 Nos.	For cooling & developing sugar crystals.
17	Centrifugal Machines	5 Nos.	For separating molasses and sugar in this machine.
18	Molasses Bhatty 5 MT Each	5	For boiling of 3rd grade sugar.
19	Crystallizer Tank	20	For cooling and developing sugar crystals for 3rd grade sugar.
20	Molasses storage tank	40	For storing of Molasses.
21	Sugar grading M/C	3	For grading of sugar into three different qualities i.e., C Type, M Type and S Type.
22	1 No. of 10 Tons 23 kg pressure Boiler along with feed water pumps 4 Nos with electrical motors and chimney of 150 feet in height with panel board with over head MS Shed	1 No	For Steam generation required for captive power generation and for process juice boiling section.
23	Boiler Water Tank	3 Nos.	For storage of water required for boiler.
24	Bagasse Carrier	1	For feeding of Bagasse to Boiler.
25	Pressure reducing Station	1	For reducing steam pressure.
26	DM Water Plant	1	For filtration of water total.
27	Turbine (Electrical Power Generation Station) along with alternator of 640 KW with panel board and all accessories.	1	For Power generation.
28	Juice Storage Tank	1	For storing of sugar cane juice.
29	Mix juice storage tank	1	For storing of sugar cane juice.
30	Weigh bridge 20 MT Dial type avery make	1	For weighment of sugarcane.
31	New Weigh bridge 50 MT scale type	1	For weighment of sugarcane.
32	650 KVA transformer	1	For electrical purposes.
33	315 KVA transformer	1	For electrical purposes.
34	200 KVA transformer	1	For electrical purposes.
35	Diesel generator Set 62.5 KVA	1	For electrical power alternate arrangement in case of breakdown of power.
36	Diesel generator Set 250 KVA	1	For electrical power alternate arrangement in case of breakdown of power.
37	Submersible pumps	4 Nos.	For bore well water drawing.
38	Lathe Machines and Shaper Machines, drilling machines, welding machines.	11 Nos.	For workshop purpose required for repairing and reconditioning of entire plant and machineries.
39	Weighing Scale	2 Nos.	For Sugar Weighment.
40	Compressors & Water Cooling Stations along with pumps motors.	4 Nos.	For water Cooling
41	Magma Pumps and Juice pumps and Concentrators	32 Nos.	For pumping of sugar cane juice, syrup and final masecute of sugar juice.
42	MS Carts	60	For transportation of sugar cane from fields to factory with the help of bullocks.

Place of storage / Installation of the Hypothecated Machinery at factory premises at Bhangoor Village, Bidar Taluk & District - 585227.

Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale:- 1) The Tender form can be collected from **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., No. 1, "UTHUNGA", Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018. (Phone: 080-26983700 / 26983722 / 22976600)** on all working days during office hours. **2)** The intending bidders should submit their bids in the prescribed tender form in closed cover along with EMD being 10% of the Reserve Price by means of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order drawn in favour of **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., Bengaluru** - payable at Bengaluru. The Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order shall be drawn after the date of publication of this Auction Sale Notice. **3)** Tenders not in the prescribed format will not be accepted. The tender along with the EMD shall be submitted at **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., Bengaluru** latest by **15-06-2026 before 5.00 PM.** Tender without EMD shall be summarily rejected. **4)** The property **"WILL NOT"** be sold below the reserve price. **5)** In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount will be refunded without interest. **6)** The EMD amount shall be liable for forfeiture without prior notice, if the bidder including successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Auction Sale. **7)** The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorised Officer in the presence of the available / attending bidders **on 16-06-2026 at 11.30 AM. 8)** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the Sale Price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, by Demand Draft / Pay Order / RTGS / NEFT and the balance of the Sale Price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property will be put for re-auction. **9)** The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues / taxes / charges / property tax / E B charges / water charges / conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws. **10)** The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all of the tender or / bid / offer and / or adjourn / postpone / cancel the Auction Sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify any of all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice. **11)** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. **12)** The property can be inspected by the intending bidders **between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM** at their expenses at the address mentioned in the Schedule. **13)** The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION".** The intending bidder shall satisfy them self about the title, ownership, statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

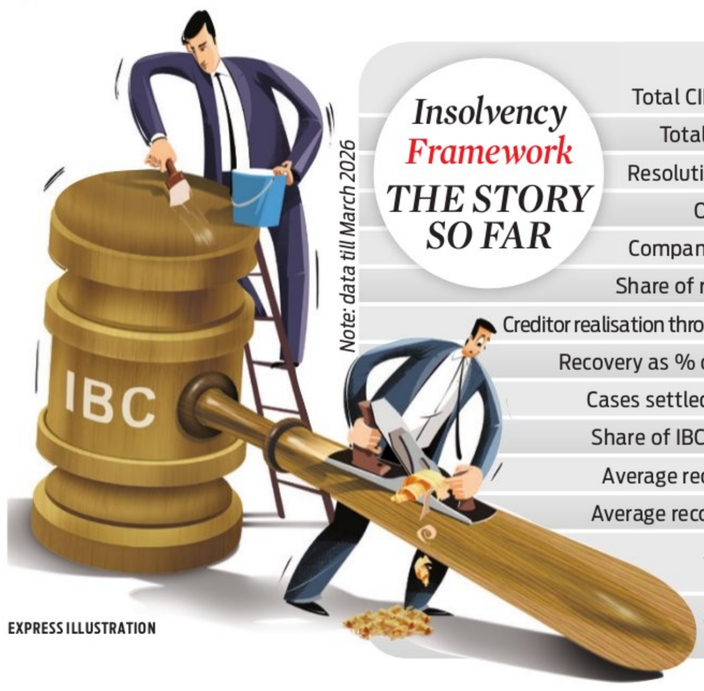
For further details the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., No. 1, "UTHUNGA", Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018 for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of property (Phone No: 080-26983700 / 26983722 / 22976600) E-Mail ID: recoverycell@karnatakaapex.bank.in

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 27-05-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd.,

$170 bn Energy investment India is likely to witness in 2026, driven by rapid expansion in solar power and oil refining as the country accelerates efforts to meet rising energy demand

● Credit discipline improves but recovery rate slips to 30% ● Banks' gross NPAs fall to 2.1%



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Note: data till March 2026

Insolvency Framework — THE STORY SO FAR

INDICATOR	VALUE
Total CIRP cases admitted	8,987
Total CIRP cases closed	7,102
Resolution plans approved	1,419
Ongoing CIRP cases	1,885
Companies rescued overall	4,099
Share of rescued companies	58%
Creditor realisation through resolution plans	₹4.3L crore
Recovery as % of admitted claims	30.56%
Cases settled before admission	Over 30,000
Share of IBC in total recoveries	52.4%
Average recovery rate pre-IBC	15-20%
Average recovery rate post-IBC	30%
Average resolution timeline pre-IBC	6-8 years
Average resolution timeline under IBC	Nearly 2 years

10 years of IBC: Banks recover ₹4 lakh crore

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THOUGH the decade-old insolvency framework has helped creditors recover more than ₹4 lakh crore — with another ₹14 lakh crore worth of stressed debt resolved even before admission into insolvency proceedings — poor recovery rates and inordinate delays in resolution continue to haunt regulators and policymakers.

The regulator, however, defended the weak recovery numbers, pointing out that 42% of the companies resolved under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) were either defunct or had earlier been referred to the erstwhile Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), resulting in lower recoveries. Recovery rates have steadily declined, with the realisation rate as a percentage of admitted claims falling to 23% in FY26 from 46% in the previous year.

Despite these weaknesses, analysts say the current IBC framework is a significant improvement over earlier mechanisms. Since the Code came into force in 2016, a total of 8,987 corporate insolvency cases have been admitted till March 2026, of which 7,102 have been closed. Among the closed cases, around 4,099 companies — nearly 58% — were rescued through resolution, settlement, withdrawal or appeal processes, while 3,003 companies went into liquidation. "IBC has helped banking industry resolve large legacy accounts stuck under CDR, RBI schemes and BIFR. Many of these accounts were fully provided for, and recoveries have added to bank profitability ," said Mukesh Chand, senior counsel at Economic Laws Practice (ELP).

Ravi Mittal, chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), said recoveries made through resolution plans were equivalent to 95% of the fair value and 167% of the liquidation value of the underlying assets, underscoring the value preservation achieved under the insolvency framework.

> **IBC has helped banking industry resolve legacy accounts stuck under CDR, RBI schemes and BIFR. Many of these accounts were provided for, and recoveries have added to bank profitability**
>
> Mukesh Chand, senior counsel, ELP

The regulator also linked the IBC's success to the sharp improvement in the banking sector's asset quality. Gross non performing assets (NPAs) of banks have declined to 2.1% as of September 2025 from nearly 11.8% in 2017.

One of the biggest impacts of the IBC, according to the regulator, has been the change in borrower behaviour and repayment culture. In a note released on Thursday, Ravi Mittal highlighted that more than 30,000 cases filed before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) were settled even before admission into insolvency proceedings, involving claims worth nearly ₹14 lakh crore. A study by the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore found that average period for which accounts remained overdue also fell sharply to 30–87 days in 2024 from 248–344 in 2017.

PSBs recover ₹35k cr from written-off debt in FY26

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

PUBLIC sector banks, often criticised for mounting written-off loans, recovered more than ₹35,000 crore from bad and technically written-off accounts in FY26, as per annual reports and investor presentations of state-owned lenders.

The banks deployed a wide range of recovery tools — from bankruptcy courts and property auctions to one-time settlements, and Lok Adalats— underscoring the scale and sophistication of their recovery machinery.

At the country's largest lender, State Bank (SBI), recoveries from written-off accounts rose to ₹10,054 crore in FY26 from ₹8,002 crore in FY25. Recoveries from its Advances Under Collection (AUC) account — the pool of fully written-off loans that the bank continues to pursue — stood at ₹17,551 crore during the year, compared with ₹20,342 crore in FY25. SBI's stock of written-off loans stood at ₹1.61 lakh crore as of March 2026. Despite large stock, fresh write-offs in FY26 were limited to ₹17,551 crore, the lowest in six years, compared with ₹34,403 crore in FY21 at the peak of the NPA cycle.

Punjab National Bank reported total recovery and upgradation of ₹15,501 crore in FY26, of which cash recovery accounted for ₹11,990 crore. Recovery from written-off accounts and accrued interest stood at ₹7,740 crore during the year. Recoveries via IBC proceedings, handled by its dedicated NCLT and liquidation cell, amounted to ₹1,868 crore.

Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India recovered ₹3,500 crore and ₹4,000 crore, respectively, from written-off accounts during FY26. Canara Bank reported cumulative cash recovery, including recoveries from written-off accounts, of Rs 9,161 crore in FY26, compared with ₹11,131 crore in FY25 and ₹10,038 crore in FY24.

ANNUAL REPORT

AMBANI DRAWS ZERO SALARY FOR SIXTH YEAR

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

EVEN though Mukesh Ambani has for the sixth year in a row drawn zero salary from Reliance Industries (RIL), in which he and his family members hold over 41%, his dividend income runs in crores in dividend income through direct and indirect holdings.

The billionaire industrialist and his family stand to earn more than ₹3,300 crore in dividend income from the company for FY26 through their massive promoter shareholding. RIL has proposed a dividend of ₹6 per equity share for FY26 after reporting a record consolidated net profit of ₹95,754 crore.

The company's annual report shows Ambani directly held 1,61,04,040 equity shares, or 0.12% of RIL as of March 31, 2026. At the proposed dividend rate, his direct dividend income alone works out to nearly ₹9.66 crore.

However, the larger payout comes through the Ambani family's promoter entities. As per the annual report, Mukesh Ambani, along with Nita, Isha, Akash and Anant, together and collectively through entities controlled by them, held 41.46% of RIL's equity capital at the end of FY26.

Reliance had 13,53,24,72,634 equity shares outstanding as of March 31, 2026. Based on the promoter family's 41.46% holding, the group controls roughly 561 crore shares. At ₹6 per share, the dividend entitlement on this holding translates into an estimated payout of about ₹3,366 crore.

> **RIL is building integrated capabilities across solar PV mfg, energy storage, and green energy**
>
> — Mukesh Ambani

RCPL to see surge in revenue

The Reliance Consumer Products' revenue is expected to grow manifold by 2030, driven by macro-economic and demographic tailwinds, according to the annual report of its parent Reliance Industries Ltd. RCPL has crossed the ₹22,000 crore revenue mark in 2025-26, recording over two-fold growth.

Contribution to exchequer rises 3%

Reliance's total contribution to the national exchequer — comprising taxes, duties, levies, and other payments to government— rose to ₹2,16,472 crore in FY26, as against ₹2,10,269 crore in FY25, 2.95% rise YoY. This underscores RIL's role as one of the largest contributors to Government. In last 10 years, its contribution to the exchequer has crossed ₹15 lakh crore.

RIL's ₹60,000 cr battery factory nears completion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

RELIANCE Industries, which has committed ₹75,000 crore towards clean energy investments, on Thursday said its 40 Gwh (gigawatt-hour) battery complex in Jamnagar, where it operates the world's largest single-location oil refinery, is nearing completion and will go on-stream later this fiscal.

The Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex in Jamnagar is coming up at an investment of ₹60,000 crore to make lithium iron phosphate-based battery chemicals, cells, and packs, as well as containerised energy storage solutions and recycling. The facility will be ready for commissioning in the second half of 2026, RIL said in its annual report.

The Mukesh Ambani-led company has plans to ramp up its capacity to 100 Gwh a year. It also has an aggressive road map for other new energy business like green hydrogen and green ammonia, apart from renewable power projects like pumped storage. Reliance is also working towards 3 million tonne per annum green hydrogen production by 2032.

"Reliance is building integrated capabilities across solar PV manufacturing, energy storage, and green energy infrastructure," Ambani said in his message to shareholders. The company has an agreement with Samsung C&T for supplies and a 15-year green ammonia offtake agreement. This project will commence operations in the second half of FY29.

Dozen firms likely to hit market to raise ₹11k cr in June

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

AFTER a muted May, the IPO market — which had its best-ever run in 2025 — is set to regain momentum, with about a dozen companies preparing to hit the Street in June to collectively raise nearly ₹11,000 crore through initial share sales.

As per investment bankers, companies across sectors are rushing to launch their offerings before their Sebi approvals expire at the end of June.

Among the prominent issuers is Bain Capital-backed auto components maker Dhoot Transmission, which plans to raise ₹2,400 crore via a public issue comprising a fresh issue of ₹1,400 crore. It is expected to hit the market on July 5.

CMR Green Technologies is preparing to launch its ₹630 crore offer-for-sale issue from June 3 and is likely to announce its price band on Friday. Insurance distribution platform Turtlemint is planning a ₹2,000 crore IPO, including a fresh issue component of ₹661 crore.

Other companies in the pipeline include exam infrastructure platform Innovatiview, which is planning a ₹1,000 crore offer-for-sale-only issue; railway and power sector-focused EPC player Laser Power & Infra, which is looking at a ₹1,200 crore IPO with a fresh issue of ₹800 crore; and Karamtara Engineering, which plans to raise ₹1,750 crore, including ₹1,350 crore via fresh equity issuance.

Education platform Learnfluence Education is set to launch a ₹296 crore issue comprising a fresh issue of ₹246 crore and the remainder through an offer for sale. Realty player Veegaland Developers is planning a ₹250 crore issue.

Rays of Belief, for-profit entity operating under the "Mom's Belief" brand and focused on supporting parents of special-needs children, is preparing to launch its IPO comprising a fresh issue of 6 million shares. Digital gold and silver trading platform Augmont Enterprises plans to raise ₹800 crore via a fresh issue of ₹620 crore and an offer for sale of ₹180 crore.

EXPRESS READ

Anthropic appoints Bavi to lead startups in India

BENGALURU: AI company Anthropic has appointed Sangeeta Bavi as head of digital natives, startups and growth for India, as the company expands its presence in the country. Bavi announced the move in a LinkedIn post, describing the role as closely connected to her long-standing work with startup founders. *ENS*

Enterprise AI push: TCS partners with Mistral

BENGALURU: TCS has partnered with French AI company Mistral, becoming the first global systems integrator to bring Mistral Forge to enterprise customers worldwide. The partnership will focus on helping businesses and governments build and deploy custom AI systems. *ENS*

Vodafone Idea flags Airtel's 5G priority plans; Jio backs network slicing

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

TELECOM service provider Vodafone Idea on Thursday flagged priority postpaid plans based on 5G slicing offered by Bharti Airtel, calling them against the principles of equity and an equal digital ecosystem.

For the first time in recent years, Vodafone Idea, India's third-largest telecom service provider, released a statement targeting Airtel. Its CMO, Avneesh Khosla, in a statement, said offering preferential speeds or services based on user profile raises questions around equity and the principles of an equal digital ecosystem. He said India's digital growth has been built on the foundation of affordability and connectivity for all. The company stated that every customer deserves a fair and consistent network experience.

"For India to continue its digital growth, even as the technology advances, it is important for innovation and monetisation models to keep the interests of all customers paramount , be transparent and most of all remain inclusive," said Avneesh Khosla, CMO , Vodafone Idea.

Airtel, India's second-largest telecom service provider, became embroiled in controversy after launching 'Priority Postpaid', a service powered by 5G network slicing technology. With this plan, the telco promises superior and more consistent connectivity for postpaid users. Consequently, it raised concerns around net neutrality.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology chairman Nishikant Dubey raised concerns over net neutrality with officials from the Department of Telecommunications and TRAI. However, Airtel defended the service

Separately, Reliance Jio told the Standing Committee that 5G network slicing-based services are compatible with India's net neutrality framework, provided they do not impact the quality or availability of general internet access services.

NET NEUTRALITY

1. Priority plans against equal digital ecosystem: Vi
2. Parl panel on Comm and IT chairman Nishikant Dubey raises concerns
3. Bharti Airtel defends the service

Indian firms face rising AI cloud bills as infra costs outpace labour savings

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

INDIAN companies, which are adopting artificial intelligence (AI), are facing rapidly rising cloud and infrastructure costs as enterprise spending shifts away from labour-heavy IT services towards GPUs, cloud subscriptions and AI platforms.

"The assumption was that companies could remove labour costs and replace them with cheaper AI infrastructure, but in many cases AI infrastructure spending is growing faster than payroll savings," said an analyst tracking enterprise AI spending trends. "AI improves productivity, but not always enough to offset rising inference, cloud and subscription costs."

Research firm Gartner said global AI spending may rise

47% YoY to $2.59 trillion in 2026, with AI infrastructure accounting for 45% of spending. UnearthInsight said enterprise tech budgets are rotating "from people-hours to platform-subscriptions", as firms spend more on cloud inference, AI agents and AI infrastructure. The pressure is becoming more visible among Indian IT firms, banks, startups and large enterprises deploying AI tools across coding, customer support, automation and operations. As per UnearthInsight, cloud subscription growth in FY26 ranging from 19% to 27%, while IT services revenue growth fell to between negative 2% and (+) 4%.

"In many enterprises, labour savings from AI-led restructuring are being outweighed by rising spending on GPUs, cloud inference and enterprise AI subscriptions. Companies may save 5-10% on workforce costs in near term, but AI infrastructure and model consumption costs are growing 20-30% annually, while revenue growth in IT services businesses remains in single digit. The result is that AI is improving productivity, but not yet delivering proportional profit expansion for most firms," the AI analyst said.

Tata Motors sees 2.5x increase in EV demand

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

TATA Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) has seen a 2-2.5x jump in demand for electric vehicles (EVs) since tension broke out in West Asia on February 28. To cater to the growing demand, the country's largest electric carmaker will enhance its EV production by 50% in the next three to four months.

TMPV on Thursday also launched the Next-Gen electric Tiago at a starting price of ₹6.99 lakh. The hatchback is also launched in Petrol and iCNG powertrains at ₹4.99 lakh. "If I am seeing for the last two months, I was comparing the monthly bookings that we get in EVs prior to February. And what we are getting today, it is 2-2.5 times more," said TMPV MD & CEO Shailesh Chandra.

He added that EV demand had already begun gaining traction even before the recent fuel price hikes, possibly in anticipation of higher running costs. On increasing capacity for EVs, Chandra said in the next 3-4 months, they should be able to enhance capacity by at least 50% more than what they are doing today.

Currently, TMPV produces about 10,000 EVs a month. The company aims to increase this production to 15,000 units.

However, on the supplier side, Chandra said the company would need to work with suppliers on agreed supply schedules ranging from three months to a year, depending on requirements. In several cases, suppliers may already have spare capacity and only need clarity on production scheduling to begin supplies, while in some instances, additional investments in production lines may be required, he added.

He also projected that EV penetration in the Indian PV market, currently 5-6%, could rise to 8-10% this year if supply constraints ease. Electric PV sales closed FY26 with record retail sales of 200,946 units, up 85% YoY. The strong momentum continued in April 2026 with sales surging 73% to 23,163 units to customers, as per Vahan data. TMPV remained market leader with 36.7% market share or 8,506 units. Chandra said the impact of fuel price hike on consumption needs to be monitored to gauge its effect on automobile demand, and it is premature to change FY27 outlook of 10% growth in PV sales.

> **In a sub-₹12 lakh segment where electric vehicle penetration remains below 2%, this is precisely the ownership proposition that will move the needle** —Shailesh Chandra, MD & CEO, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles

NO HOLDING BACK: CAN BE PUNISHED FOR NOT PUSHING AGENDA

You have broadcasters, cricket boards that have their agendas and if you don't want to push their narrative, they can punish you, says fiery former WI pacer Michael Holding in a candid chat with ***Firoz Mirza*** on present scenario of commentary...

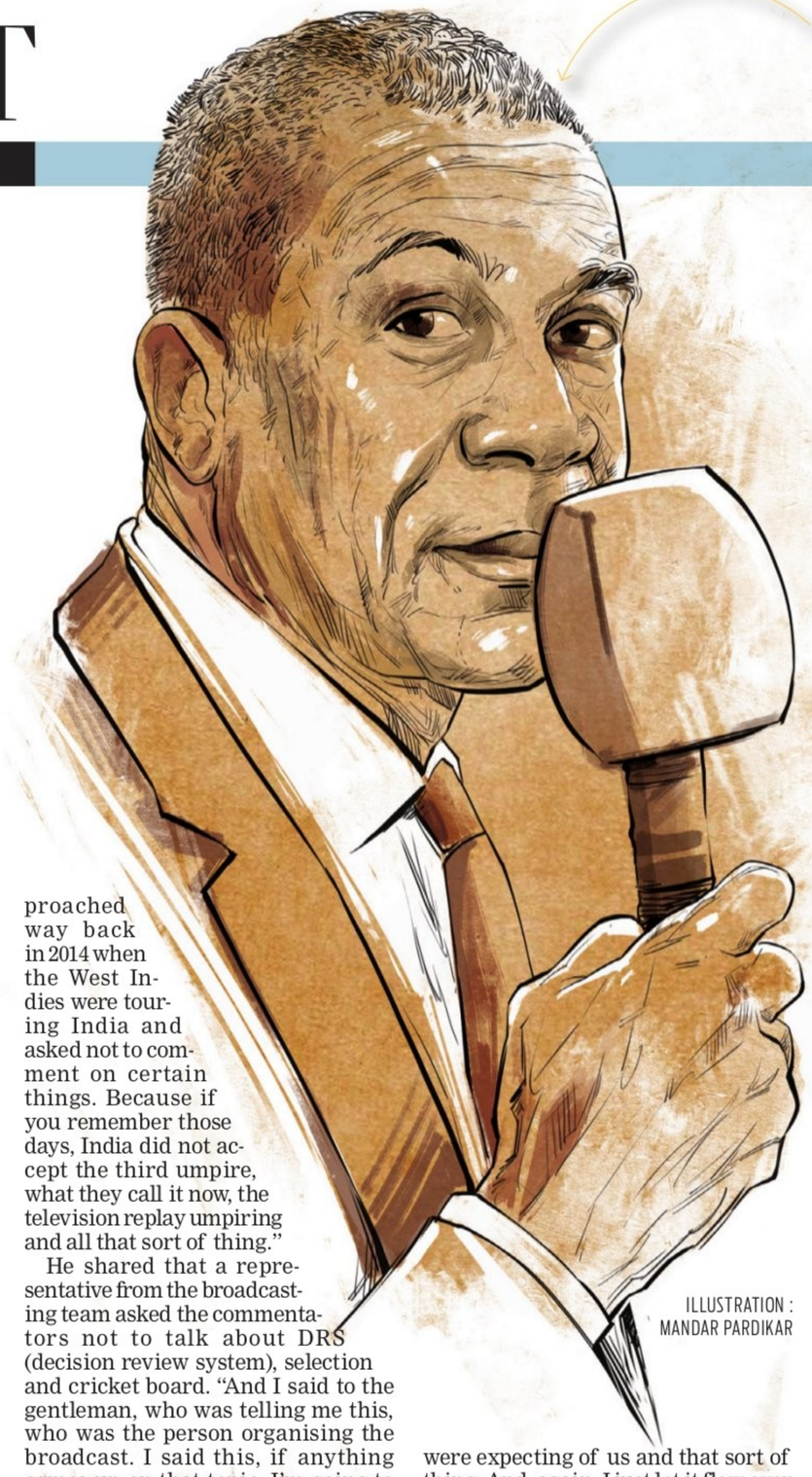


ILLUSTRATION : MANDAR PARDIKAR

And I said to the gentleman, who was telling me this, who was the person organising the broadcast. I said this, if anything comes up on that topic, I'm going to say what my thoughts are. Don't ask me not to comment on certain things. Because, if it raises its head, I'm going to comment on it

Michael Holding on an incident during the 2014 West Indies tour of India

NOT long ago, former India captain Rohit Sharma criticised commentators terming the way they speak 'disappointing'. And Rohit is not alone to feel that way. His Mumbai teammate and India pace-bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur vented his ire during a press conference after an IPL match in 2025 saying critics should review their own playing statistics before being overly preachy about a bowler's execution. The list is endless with Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag being the latest entrant. With players frequently coming out in open and taking a dig at commentators, cricket commentary has come under scanner. What made matters worse for commentators were accusations of agenda-driven commentary or personal attacks on players. Cricket aficionados often rue the absence of honest analysis of the game and remember the good old days when experts' talks used to feel pleasant to ears. Now-a-days there have been instances when a lot of people prefer muting their TV sets.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

This daily got in touch with West Indies great Michael Holding to learn about the nuances of commentary. For someone who wielded the commentary mike for years giving a rational and 'hearty' insight into the game, the present day situation did not surprise him at all. He dissected the scenario in the hallowed commentary box, touched upon sensitive topics of restriction and more, especially during his time.

"Well, I wouldn't say it's okay but it does not surprise me because that is what seems to be happening these days," the 72-year-old cricketing legend from Jamaica told this daily over telephone when queried about standard of commentary.

"People want to be dictating people what they can and cannot say. Lots of people have their agenda and if you don't fall into your world and follow their narratives, you know, it's almost as if they blackball you. It is easy these days to cancel people. This (cancel) culture that I hear them talking about, you know, the power is with their corporations and organisations," he added.

Holding, the leading wicket-taker for West Indies in the 1979 World Cup which they won to retain the title, said there are so many people who are glad to do whatever is required to keep a job or get a job. He said he didn't face the situation with organisations he worked with on a regular basis but had to counter such issues during the West Indies tour of India in 2014 and 2019 ODI World Cup in England. "Not with the organisations that I worked with on a regular basis. I never got that from Sky in the UK. I never got that from Super Sports in South Africa and I never got it from Channel 9 in Australia. But what I did get, I was approached way back in 2014 when the West Indies were touring India and asked not to comment on certain things. Because if you remember those days, India did not accept the third umpire, what they call it now, the television replay umpiring and all that sort of thing."

He shared that a representative from the broadcasting team asked the commentators not to talk about DRS (decision review system), selection and cricket board. "And I said to the gentleman, who was telling me this, who was the person organising the broadcast. I said this, if anything comes up on that topic, I'm going to say what my thoughts are. Don't ask me not to comment on certain things. Because, if it raises its head, I'm going to comment on it. On one occasion, there was something, there was an LBW, I think, that was given out. It was an Indian batsman as well, he was given out, and the replay showed that he was not out, and my only comment was, 'I'm sorry that there isn't a system that could have corrected that'."

A few years later, Holding encountered the situation again in the 2019 World Cup. "We had this big meeting before the World Cup, and people were telling us, commentators, what they were expecting of us and that sort of thing. And, again, I just let it flow over my head because I do commentary in one way. If I see something I'm going to talk about, I'm going to mention it. And, on one occasion, there was some absolutely horrible umpiring in a game at the Oval, I think it was. I'm not sure, but I think it was at the Oval, and I made the comment that this is horrible umpiring because the replays just showed the umpire making mistake after mistake and had to be corrected. Of course, I got a call, I should not be saying things like that. So, I told them straight up, do you want me to umpire the next, I mean, to work on the next game? Just tell me, I'm happy to go home, but this is the way I do my job." Expectedly, the West Indian great was not selected for the next round of games but he was happy. "Commentators for the second round of games were not selected until the end of the first round but I completed all the games I was asked to do in the first round even after the call. I just wasn't asked to do anymore games which I pretty much expected after the call."

Holding lives in Grand Cayman Island, about 90 miles from Jamaica, these days and hardly listens to cricket commentaries leave alone the IPL. But he said the commentators should be selected on the basis of their prowess on the game. "I don't think that necessarily you have to be a former player to be in that position, to be able to commentate properly, because I know Tony Cozier, who did it for the Caribbean, was one of the best around. He never played Test cricket, he never played international cricket, but he was still an excellent commentator. Reds Pereira was another gentleman in the Caribbean who did an excellent job. Fazeer Mohamed is another one from Trinidad, who did an excellent job as a commentator without playing at international level. The important thing, I think, is for someone to be able to let the people at home who are watching understand what is happening with the game. Once you can do that, you should qualify to do commentary."

Holding never spoke about players' personal lives during his days as a commentator and said the commentators should focus on sport. "I don't believe commentators should be bringing anybody's personal life into commentary. If you're talking about somebody's cricket, I have no problem with commentators being critical of somebody's cricket, of their bowling or their fielding or their batting. That is part of the game. You are there to commentate on what you see happening on the field. I don't believe anybody should be delving into people's personal lives, whether they are married or not married or how many children they have or how many late nights they spend."

But he also felt that players should take their criticism of their game sportingly. "If you don't want people to criticise your cricket, then do your job properly. It's simple. You have a job to do. If you are doing your job well and properly, people will not criticise you. This is their job to talk about what has happened within the game and what they can see on the cricket field. If a player is disturbed by that, that's his problem. I have had that issue. I have spoken about cricketers and what they have done or what they haven't done in the game or how badly they have done, and people have thought that I should not be doing it, but that is my job. I cannot see you bowl a bad ball and say, oh, that was a good ball or you were unlucky. I have my credibility. People listening to you expect you to speak the truth, expect you to say it as you see it. Not because you know someone or you are friends with someone, you are going to give them a pass or you comment kindly about them because you know them or you are friends with them. You should be objectively talking about what you see in front of you." Holding asserted he never came across commentators, who promoted certain players or took down a few others as it can affect the credibility. "I don't know of people targeting people and trying to promote people beyond what they are capable of doing. If people are watching the game, they are sensitive enough to recognise when somebody is talking rubbish. Similarly, if you are trying to take down somebody unnecessarily, again you're going to lose your credibility or you should lose your credibility."

But he also did not deny the possibility of broadcasters and cricket boards pushing commentators to set their own narratives. "As I said before, you have broadcasters, you have cricket boards that have their agendas and if you don't want to push their narrative, they can punish you. So, sometimes you'll find commentators, as I said, who want to keep their jobs or who are looking for a job that will compromise their principles, which is unfortunate but as we know, it does happen. People sometimes are forced to compromise their principles because of the situation that they find themselves in." Holding also talked about former India leg spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan's recent outburst where he alleged colour bias before quitting commentary. "I read an article not too long ago about Sivaramakrishnan, who was complaining about something but I have no evidence so I don't know. I like Shiv, we got along very well when he was a player and when we commentated and worked together but I don't know. It's unfortunate that he had to come out and say things like that but I have no evidence. I don't know. I can't sit on one side of the fence or the other."

What Gill and Co need to do to stop Rajasthan?

GOMESH S @ Chennai

ON Tuesday night, a while after Royal Challengers Bengaluru overpowered Gujarat Titans to seal a berth in the IPL final, Glenn Phillips, who was not a part of the playing XI, faced the media.

One of the questions put forth in front of him was whether the Titans had mentally given up after RCB set a target of 255. Philipps, understandably not amused, called it a "terrible question." "No one goes in there waiting to go, 'Oh, you know what? We're just going to give up on this one.' Why would we do that as professional cricketers?" he said. "There's a huge amount of scoreboard pressure when you're trying to chase 250. And, very few teams have done it. Obviously, the Punjab Kings have managed to do it a couple of times, which has been phenomenal. And I think they've maybe made it seem easier than it is. I have yet to be part of a team that's gotten anywhere near 250, so sometimes it just is what it is," Phillips went on to add. Though the question may have been framed in a way that irked the Titans' all-rounder, there was some merit to the underlying argument. And it even reflected in Phillips' answer.

TOP-3 DOMINANCE

Team	% contribution	Runs
GT	67.02	1,729
RR	58.82	1,614
LSG	57.16	1,373
SRH	54.29	1,575
RCB	53.59	1,476

Titans are not a team that puts up 250-plus totals. At least, not yet. That is not how they have built their squad and playing XI. Their success formula, over the last two years at least, has been about taking powerplay wickets with pace before Rashid Khan and spinners assume charge.

And then allowing their ever-so-consistent top three — Shubman Gill, B Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler — to chase down.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR GT

Gujarat Titans take on an upbeat Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2 on Friday. A look...

Sooryavanshi vs GT bowlers

Gujarat Titans' potent pace attack will have to stop the marauding boy wonder Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Both Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada have provided early breakthroughs for GT, but the teenager comes fresh off an inspiring 97-run knock.

Titans' middle-order

With the top three doing the heavylifting, despite having the likes of Rahul Tewatia and Glenn Phillips in the mix, GT have not been able to up the ante in the death overs. Can they do that on Friday?

GT vs RR, New Chandigarh, 7.30pm
LIVE on Star Sports & JioHotstar

"Honestly don't think it's such a big win": Pragg

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Oslo

R Praggnanandhaa | MICHAL WALUSZA/FIDE

WHEN Magnus Carlsen headed to the confessional booth early on during his game against R Praggnanandhaa at Norway Chess on Wednesday, he had an axe to grind. His broadside was aimed towards the developer responsible for the NBA App. "Do better," the Norwegian said, looking into the camera.

"This has nothing to do with the game. But I thought I might as well say it. Whoever is responsible for the NBA App... we have one of the best Western Conference finals (going on) and when people have 'no spoilers on' in the App, they expect no spoilers."

In isolation, this was the latest in a series of quotable Carlsen quips from inside the confession box. But what made it arresting on Wednesday was that it came during a very tricky opening. Playing with the black pieces, the World No. 1 had already been forced into a couple of deep thinks by this point and Carlsen had already made a few trips to think aloud the problems he was facing in front of him.

After claiming that there were at least 16 decent moves for white on move 6 of the Najdorf, Carlsen said: "... yet, I managed to be surprised, so here we go."

And they went. Over the next 200 minutes or so, this game oscillated like an out of control pendulum. The Indian was in charge and also had the advantage. Then Carlsen took control, gained an advantage and was winning. But in a truly wild endgame where both players were making moves with a minute on the clock, Praggnanandhaa prevailed to claim his second Classical win over the five-time world champion in Norway. Not many players can say that.

There is an old saying in this country. Norway Chess is a tournament where the world's best play to see who earns the right to finish second to Carlsen. It's also true because in 13 previous editions of this tournament, the 35-year-old has won seven. In 2026? He has lost two of his opening three Classical games and is walking the tightest of tightropes. But Wednesday's story belongs to Pragg, one of the very few Indians to have beaten Carlsen twice in the Classical format. While the 20-year-old downplayed the win — "honestly not that big a win," he said in the mixed zone — his coach, Vaibhav Suri, was fist-pumping his way through the escalator when Pragg was being taken to the TV studios to dissect the win. **Results:** R Praggnanandhaa **bt** M Carlsen, A Firouzja **bt** D Gukesh (Armageddon), W So **bt** V Keymer (Armageddon) A Muzychuk **bt** K Humpy (Armageddon), D Deshmukh **bt** B Assaubayeva (Armageddon), Z Jiner **bt** J Wenjun (Armageddon).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Top Indian surfers to take part at NMPA Indian Open

MANGALURU: The seventh edition of the NMPA Indian Open of Surfing will begin at the Tannirbhavi beach on Friday. The event carries added significance ahead of the sport's debut at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games later this year. Leading Indian surfers like Ramesh Budihal (men) and Kamali P (women) are expected to take part in the three-day competition.

Injured star Neymar unlikely for FIFA World Cup opener

RIO DE JANEIRO: 34-year-old forward Neymar has a calf injury and is unlikely be fit for Brazil's opening game against Morocco, team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said. "The expectation is that he will be sidelined from two to three weeks." Neymar was selected for his fourth World Cup in a 26-man squad by coach Carlo Ancelotti despite not playing for the national team since October 2023.

Mateta fires Palace to Conference League glory

LEIPZIG: Jean-Philippe Mateta scored as Crystal Palace beat Rayo Vallecano 1-0 in the UEFA Conference League final in Leipzig on Wednesday to secure the club's first European trophy in their history. After a cagey opening half with few clear chances, Mateta turned in a rebound for the game's only goal on 51 minutes, sending departing coach Oliver Glasner off in style. The coach signs off with a third trophy in his two-year stay.

Dope positive weightlifters may affect CWG participation

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

DRUG abuse has reared its ugly head again and this time only a couple of months ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games triggering fear of non-participation of Indian athletes in a few weight categories in the weightlifting event. As reported by this daily, weightlifter N Ajith (71kg), Commonwealth and Asian Championships medallist, tested positive for banned substance during an out-of-competition test conducted by the National Anti-Doping Agency last month. Apart from him, three others including a junior woman athlete were also tested positive for banned substances. Three lifters including Ajith were in contention for the CWG and the positive dope test results might adversely affect India's participation in these weight categories.

Top Indian weightlifter caught in doping net?

As per the qualification system, "If there are multiple ADRV's committed by weightlifting athletes and/or weightlifting athlete support personnel sanctioned during the period of 01 June 2025 – 22 July 2026 the maximum number of athlete qualification slots allocated to a CGA will be reduced by the same number as the number of ADRV's.

Sindhu, Lakshya enter quarterfinals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DOUBLE Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the quarterfinals with contrasting wins, while HS Prannoy bowed out at Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament on Thursday. Sindhu took just 37 minutes to get the better of Riko Gunji of Japan 21-9 21-12 in her second round match. But a stern test awaits Sindhu in the form of An Se Young of Korea in the last-eight. Lakshya Sen, a 2021 world championship bronze winner, also progressed to the quarterfinals after second seed Kunlavut Viditsarn retired after just two points due to a back problem. Meanwhole, HS Prannoy lost to Loh Kean Yew 18-21, 21-16, 15-21.

'Dizzy' top-seed Sinner wilts in French Open heat, stunned in 2nd round

AGENCIES @ Paris

JANNIK Sinner's 30-match winning run came to an abrupt halt at the French Open on Thursday as the world number one succumbed to sweltering conditions in a five-set, second-round loss to Juan Manuel Cerundolo. Sinner, the red-hot favourite at Roland Garros, appeared to be cruising to victory, holding a two-set lead and a commanding 5-1 advantage in the third, before suddenly taking a turn for the worse. The Italian complained of dehydration and dizziness, saying he felt as though he might vomit, and was visibly struggling as temperatures once again climbed above 30C during a record-breaking heatwave in France.

Sinner suddenly looked a shadow of himself and an inspired Cerundolo seized his chance to pull off an improbable comeback, prevailing 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1. Sinner arrived in Paris on the back of winning all three of the clay-court Masters titles, with his odds of completing a career Grand Slam enhanced further by the absence of injured rival Carlos Alcaraz. Instead, the 24-year-old suffered his earliest exit at a major since losing at the same stage of the French Open in 2023. "It's tough for him (Sinner). I think I was a little bit lucky," said Cerundolo, who goes on to play Martin Landaluce or Vit Kopriva in the last 32. It was another bitterly disappointing ending at Roland Garros for last year's runner-up who held three championship points 12 months ago before losing to Alcaraz. "I had no energy today. That can happen. Nobody is a robot," said the four-time Grand Slam champion, who complained of dehydration and dizziness.

Jannik Sinner cools down during a break | AP

Results (select): JM Cerundolo **bt** J Sinner 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 J Faria **bt** J Struff 7-5, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2 L Tien **bt** FD Acosta 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 A Zverev **bt** T Machac 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; Women: N Osaka **bt** D Vekic 7-6 (7/1), 6-4; M Chwalinska **bt** E Mertens 6-4, 6-0.

Biggest challenge is pricing

The biggest challenge for the device is its pricing. In this segment, several competitors offer similar —and in some cases better —specifications at a lower price point

₹10K
higher than its predecessor, largely due to the increasing global cost of components

SAMSUNG GALAXY A37

STYLISH DESIGN MEETS RELIABLE EVERYDAY PERFORMANCE

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

SAMSUNG has launched the Galaxy A37 at a starting price of ₹41,999. The smartphone is priced nearly ₹10,000 higher than its predecessor, largely due to the increasing global cost of components. This naturally raises an important question — does the Galaxy A37 justify its premium pricing?

After using the phone for over 15 days as a secondary device, I found the Galaxy A37 impressive in several areas. Its premium design immediately stands out, while the battery life and camera performance are reliable for everyday use. The phone delivers a balanced overall experience, although its pricing remains a concern when compared to some rivals in the segment.

Design and display

The Samsung Galaxy A37 makes a strong first impression with its sleek and premium design. The Lavender colour variant, in particular, looks elegant and attractive with its subtle finish and refined colour tone.

The phone comes with Gorilla Glass Victus+ protection on both the front and rear panels, offering better resistance against scratches and minor accidental damage. In addition, the device features an IP68 rating for water and dust resistance, making it more durable than its predecessor, the Galaxy A36, which carried an IP67 rating.

On the front, the Galaxy A37 sports a 6.7-inch FHD+ Super AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and peak brightness of 1,900 nits. The display remains bright, vibrant, and sharp throughout the day, whether indoors or under direct sunlight. Scrolling and media consumption also feel smooth thanks to the high refresh rate.

Camera and battery

The Samsung Galaxy A37 comes with a triple rear camera setup featuring a 50MP primary sensor, an 8MP ultrawide lens, and a 5MP macro camera.

In daylight conditions, the primary camera captures detailed and sharp images with accurate colours and balanced dynamic range. The camera performs well for casual photography and social media uploads. Low-light photography, however, is average, as images tend to show some grain in very dark areas.

The 12MP front camera delivers good selfies with natural skin tones and balanced contrast. The device is backed by a 5,000mAh battery, which comfortably lasts a full day with moderate usage. During my usage, which mostly included browsing, checking news updates, writing emails, and occasional work-related tasks, the battery performance remained dependable. Charging speeds are also decent for daily use.

Overall verdict

The Samsung Galaxy A37 gets most things right. It offers a premium design, a vibrant display, dependable battery life, and reliable day-to-day performance. The cameras are also capable enough for regular photography needs. However, the biggest challenge for the device is its pricing. In this segment, several competitors offer similar — and in some cases better — specifications at a lower price point. Still, for users who prefer Samsung's ecosystem, software experience, and premium design language, the Galaxy A37 remains a solid option worth considering.

The Galaxy A37 runs One UI 8.5 based on Android 16 and is powered by Samsung's Exynos 1480 processor built on a 4nm architecture

In day-to-day use, the phone handled regular tasks smoothly, including app switching, browsing, social media usage, and video streaming. The overall performance feels stable and reliable for everyday users, and I did not experience any major lag during my usage

If you are running a consulting business and you are deploying Anthropic or OpenAI directly into your organisation... you are letting the fox into the hen house —Chamath Palihapitiya, Venture capitalist

Why India's IT giants are partnering with OpenAI, Anthropic

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S technology services industry is entering one of its biggest transitions in decades. Over the past couple of months, major IT firms including Infosys, TCS, Wipro, HCLTech and Tech Mahindra have announced partnerships with artificial intelligence firms including OpenAI and Anthropic. On the surface, these deals sound technical and corporate; but underneath, they reflect a much larger change taking place across the global technology industry.

For years, Indian IT firms made money by helping large corporations manage software, maintain systems and reduce operational costs. Banks, retailers and manufacturers across the world outsourced technology work to India because it was cheaper and scalable.

Artificial intelligence is beginning to change that model. Tools built by OpenAI and Anthropic can now write code, generate reports, automate customer support and assist with software testing. Work that once needed large teams of engineers can increasingly be done faster with AI systems. That creates both an opportunity and a threat for India's outsourcing industry.

The partnerships are largely about survival and positioning. OpenAI and Anthropic build the underlying AI models, but large companies still need help deploying them. Most businesses cannot simply plug an AI chatbot into their operations overnight. They need security checks, compliance approvals, customised software integration and employee training.

This is where Indian IT firms still have an advantage. They already manage technology systems for some of the world's largest corporations. They understand how enterprise infrastructure works and have thousands of engineers working directly with clients.

XPLAINER

In simple terms, AI firms build the engines, while Indian IT companies help install and operate them inside corporations. That is why these alliances are growing rapidly.

Infosys and TCS have both expanded enterprise AI work with global model providers, while Wipro and HCLTech have launched AI-focused consulting and deployment services. Similar partnerships are also being pursued globally by companies such as Accenture and PwC.

The bigger concern inside the industry is that AI could eventually reduce the need for large engineering teams.

For decades, Indian IT companies grew by increasing headcount. More engineers often meant more revenue. Generative AI challenges that logic. If 10 engineers using AI tools can do the work that previously required fifty, the economics of outsourcing begin to shift.

Industry leaders are publicly describing AI as a growth opportunity, but many also understand the long-term risks.

Venture capitalist Chamath Palihapitiya recently warned consulting firms about becoming too dependent on AI companies. "If you are running a consulting business and you are deploying Anthropic or OpenAI directly into your organisation... you are letting the fox into the hen house," he wrote on X. His argument reflects a growing fear that AI companies may eventually move deeper into enterprise services themselves, potentially competing with the consulting firms currently helping them expand.

Still, Indian IT companies are not disappearing anytime soon. Large banks, governments and healthcare firms cannot easily replace critical systems with experimental AI tools. They still need human oversight, cybersecurity, compliance and integration support.

FOCUS FEATURE

Dr. N. Narasimha Murthy: An Inspiring Journey from Waiting for His Mother's Idlis to Building Welfare Institutions

Dr. N. Narasimha Murthy, President, Telecom Employees and Other Housing Welfare Trust (R), was born in Bengaluru to Narasimhayya and Chikka Gangamma in a family shaped by financial hardship but strengthened by resilience and hard work. His father worked at Raja Mill while his mother earned a livelihood by selling flowers. The family lived in a small house without electricity, relying on kerosene lamps and managing life with limited means.

Murthy studied in a government school where resources were scarce, but determination was abundant. One memory from his childhood continues to remain deeply etched in his mind. As a young boy, he would wait near the school gate for his mother to arrive after selling flowers.

She would come carrying idlis for him, feed him with affection and then send him into the classroom. Those moments, simple yet profound, became lasting reminders of sacrifice, care and unconditional love.

Even today, Murthy reflects on those mornings not as memories of poverty but as symbols of perseverance and emotional strength. The boy who once waited outside a school gate for his mother would eventually build institutions that touched thousands of lives.

Balancing Work and Education

Financial circumstances pushed Murthy into work at a very young age. During his school years, he undertook small jobs to support himself while continuing his education. One such responsibility involved distributing newspapers before attending classes.

As he grew older, education and work moved together. He enrolled at Seshadripuram Evening College while continuing employment during the day. Determined to create opportunities through education, he refused to allow hardship to become a barrier.

His first formal professional opportunity came through BSNL as a contract worker involved in laying underground telecom cables. The work demanded physical endurance. Long hours were spent digging trenches, installing cable infrastructure and

restoring roads after completion.

For nearly a decade, Murthy balanced demanding fieldwork with evening education. He considers that phase one of the most important foundations of his life. Labour taught endurance. Education created direction.

A Professional Turning Point

A major transition arrived when the Voluntary Retirement Scheme introduced in 2019 altered his professional journey. Though retirement had not initially been his plan, procedural developments and administrative circumstances eventually moved him toward a new phase.

Rather than slowing down, Murthy redirected his focus toward welfare activities, housing initiatives and social development.

Theatre, Culture and Public Engagement

Alongside his professional responsibilities, Murthy developed a deep interest in theatre and cultural activities. He became associated with theatre groups, including Samudaya, participating actively in stage performances and public cultural programmes.

Events conducted by the Department of Telecommunications at Ravindra Kalakshetra further strengthened his engagement with performing arts. One performance even earned him state-level recognition, although formal communication regarding the award never reached him and another individual eventually collected it.

His work also found appreciation through departmental publications such as Sancharini, where senior officials acknowledged his contributions. These experiences gradually strengthened his confidence, communication abilities and leadership skills.

Growth Through BSNL and Leadership Roles

Murthy's professional life took another major step forward when his contract service became regularised. Over time, he developed an active involvement in employee welfare and union activities.

What began as participation gradually evolved into leadership.

He served in various responsibilities, including branch secretary, area secretary, district secretary and Karnataka Circle leadership positions. His work involved resolving employee concerns, administrative matters and workplace issues.

Murthy believes accountability remained central to his approach. He also contributed through institutional mechanisms including Works Committees and Joint Committees, focusing consistently on employee welfare and organisational fairness.

Housing Welfare and Social Service

After leaving BSNL, Murthy expanded his efforts through the Telecom Employees Housing Welfare Trust, which operates across Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mysuru and other regions. The organisation focuses on housing development through transparent systems while also supporting orphanages, food distribution, marriage assistance and community welfare initiatives. It runs skill development programmes for economically weaker women in tailoring, beautician training and computer education. For Murthy, social service is not charity but responsibility.

A Long-Standing Dream of Cinema

Cinema remained a long-standing passion for Murthy, who aspired to become a film director from 1989. Financial setbacks and professional responsibilities delayed the dream, but it never faded. Today, he is associated with Common Man, a film being developed with director Sai Prakash under Surabhi Films. Murthy is married to Gowramma and has two children, Vasantha and Kiran. Despite professional success, memories of his mother remain central to his life. He preserves her photograph and toe-ring as reminders of sacrifice and values. From hardship to leadership, Murthy's journey reflects resilience, gratitude and a commitment to uplifting lives.

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Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka and Chancellor of the University

Hosts

Dr. S.Vidyashankar
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, VTU, Belagavi

Dr. Prasad B. Rampure
Registrar, VTU, Belagavi

Prof. Ujwal U.J
Registrar (Evaluation), VTU, Belagavi

Dr. Prashantha Nayaka. G
Finance Officer, VTU, Belagavi

Dr. D.P.Nagarajappa
Principal, UBDTCE, Davanagere

Date: Friday, 29th May 2026 | Time: 11.00AM onwards
Venue: University BDT College of Engineering, Davangere